PROCEEDINGS OF THE
NEW JERSEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
VOLUME LXXVIII, NUMBER 1, JANUARY, 1960
WHOLE NUMBER 300

The Rock-a-bye Baby: Birth and Early Years

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THE early days of the Rockaway Valley Railroad may be described as a series of attempts to build a railroad from White House, New Jersey, to Morristown, New Jersey, a distance of twenty-five miles, principally to serve the peach industry and secondarily to act as a feeder for Morristown.

Money being scarce, five different railroad corporations and five years were required to build twenty-four miles to Watnong, on the outskirts of Morristown. At no time was there sufficient business to allow the railroad to earn a profit and still provide adequate maintenance for the track, and its nickname, "Rock-a-bye Baby," was derived from the way the train rolled and tossed as it traveled over the line.

During its operating life from 1888 through 1913 it was bankrupt three times. When it finally closed it was not because it was losing money, as is the reason often given, but because the unsafe condition of the track and bridges, which the railroad could not afford to repair, obliged the New Jersey Public Utility Commission to order the cessation of operation. It was not until four years later that the road was torn up. During the intervening period repeated attempts were made to repair and resume operations, and

MR. TABER'S article, which exceeds the capacity of a single issue of the *Proceedings,* will be run serially. The author, publications editor of Railroadians of America, is a long-time student of New Jersey railroads.

only World War I with its inflated labor costs and the profitable market for steel rails and ties caused the abandonment.

Since the founding of the railroad various changes of name have taken place. Gladstone was originally part of Peapack. Until World War I, Oldwick was named New Germantown. Whitehouse Station was originally White House; over a period of years White House was written as one word, and finally that portion where the Jersey Central Railroad and the Rockaway Valley Railroad operated was renamed Whitehouse Station.

Much has been written in recent years on the road. Unfortunately most of it has been by way of reminiscence, with little regard to accurate factual information. The author has used only contemporary source material; and ungrounded information, colorful as it often is, has been ignored.

The Country

Rockway Valley country — Hunterdon, Somerset, and Morris counties — remains unchanged as yet in many places from the time the "Rock-a-bye Baby" once served as the life blood for the populace. Uninhibited by clanking industry or the multitudes of the cities, the tree-covered hills and rural farming lands still present a quiet, peaceful life for those now living there.

Into this country were to be built many railroads, and numerous others projected which never left the talk and paper stages.

The final advent of the railroad was the culmination of thirty-nine years of active work to give the orchards, grist mills, lumber tracts and lime kilns a direct outlet to the cities.

The character of Hunterdon county had long been agrarian. Prior to the coming of the railroads, small farms predominated, with little invested in orchards. There was no large industry as we think of it today. The water-powered grist mills ground corn and wheat for their flour, but at best a mill required only a few workers. Lumbering was operated on a family basis, as were the lime kilns.

The Somerville and Easton Railroad (now the Central Railroad of New Jersey) built west from Somerville to White House, High Bridge, and Easton during the late 1840's and early 1850's. The arrival of the railroad gave access to the markets of Newark and

New York, and the farmers, discovering orchard crops to be a profitable business, gradually turned their farms into fruit orchards.

Once the trunk line had been built into the county, talk ran rampant on building branch railroads into the surrounding country. On March 1, 1849, shortly after the Somerville and Easton Railroad reached White House, a group of men incorporated the New Germantown Railroad and Transportation Company, to run from a point near White House to the village of New Germantown, four miles to the north, with the proviso that the line be completed within five years. The latter village, now renamed Oldwick, was then a thriving settlement of some fifty-five houses, several grist mills, saw mills, and a number of stores.

The 1852 issue of "Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey," by Barber and Howe, presents a picture of the Rockaway Valley country at the start of the peach-growing period. During the ensuing thirty-six years, until the railroad was built, the population and pattern of life did not materially change save for the peach orchards.

Readington township, in Hunterdon county, had a population of 2373 people and six grist mills, one oil mill, two saw mills, and nine stores. White House was the only village of note in the township at that time.

Four miles to the north was New Germantown, the center of Tewksbury township and also in Hunterdon county. In Tewksbury there were four grist mills, five saw mills, and nine stores. Some limestone burning for fertilizer, and the usual small farms rounded out the occupations of the 1944 inhabitants.

Peapack, which is twelve miles north of White House, had only twelve or fifteen homes, but even this small settlement was sufficient to be the center of Bedminster township, Somerset county. The hilly country was considered well cultivated, and with its several saw and grist mills, and lime burning, it yielded a livelihood for its residents.

Chester township, to the northwest of Peapack, later to be tapped by a branch of the Lackawanna and the High Bridge branch of the Jersey Central, had peach orchards, replacing the old apple orchards, and some undeveloped iron mines.

One of the earliest settled townships, Mendham, which is five miles north of Peapack in Morris county, was even then important culturally, having private academies for both sexes and several churches. Peaches and wheat were grown in limited quantities. As in the rest of the country the land was fertile, and the 1400 people made a living from the land.

Morris township was in effect a suburb of Morristown, although largely undeveloped. It was to be in the valley of the Whippany River in this township that the railroad would snake its way into Watnong. However, the life of the township was to be little affected by the railroad.

The advent of the peach industry was not a sudden occurrence, but rather was gradual and depended largely upon construction of railroad lines away from New York and Trenton. The first large orchards in Hunterdon county were started in the 1850's, the peaches being shipped to the New York markets. Special peach trains for this purpose were run out of Flemington as early as 1862, and as other railroad lines were constructed, more and more land was turned into peach orchards.

Railroads on Paper

After the New Germantown railroad was projected into the territory, the Peapack and Plainfield Railroad was chartered in 1855 to connect its namesakes. The Peapack Railroad was chartered shortly thereafter, in 1857, to run from Bound Brook to Peapack or Chester. Following the Civil War these projected lines were again reconsidered, but nothing came of them.

Mendham was not to be ignored. The Mendham and Chester Railroad was formed in 1860 to run from Morristown to Mendham and Chester or Peapack. The Mendham and Chester was prominently shown on early maps of Northern New Jersey.

The first partially successful attempt to bring a railroad into the area was started in 1865, and although it did not reach Peapack until 1890 and with several changes of name, the Passaic Valley and Peapack Railroad was to be forerunner of the present Lackawanna branch from Summit to Peapack and Gladstone.

Finally we come to the first line to be built into the vicinity of the Rockaway Valley. Under the name of the High Bridge

Railroad and other companies, the Central Railroad of New Jersey built north from High Bridge up to German Valley (Long Valley), Chester, Wharton, and other points where there were iron mines. Construction was started about 1873 and finished several years later. The High Bridge line was to be later paralleled by the "Rock-a-bye Baby" eight miles to the east, but its purpose was principally to reach iron mines and not to develop agriculture.

With these roads that reached the stage of being incorporated, there were many other lines that were talked of and possibly mentioned once or twice in a newspaper before the idea died.

The citizens of Peapack wanted a railroad. Many had been talked of, but by early 1887 nothing seemed to progress beyond the paper stage. The Passaic and Delaware Railroad, a reorganization of the Passaic Valley and Peapack, had reached Bernardsville years before and ended at that point. Plans and talk grew in 1887, and many meetings were held. The Hunterdon *Republican* on February 9th reported a meeting which pointed out why Peapack required a railroad.

> The citizens of Peapack and vicinity want a railroad and at a recent meeting appointed a committee to ascertain what amount of freight is being shipped to and from Peapack on wagons to Somerville, Chester, and Bernardsville, and report at an adjourned meeting. The town is in a limestone valley, twelve miles north of Somerville and six miles south of Chester. There is burned something over 100,000 bushels of lime per annum, and about 25 percent of it is shipped by railroad. The rest is hauled and used mostly by farmers. Sixty thousand baskets of peaches were shipped last year. An iron mine is not worked at present for want of railroad facilities. The town has stone quarries and hat factories also. The citizens are willing to give the right of way and are hopeful that the Delaware and Lackawanna Railroad will extend its branch from Bernardsville, or that the Jersey Central will build a branch from Somerville or North Branch to the town.

The March 9th *Republican* quoted additional reasons for a railroad to Peapack which would handle 120,000 baskets of peaches (although a month earlier they had claimed only 60,000), 600 tons of timber shipped annually, 600 tons of merchandise received and 400 tons of fertilizer, open up unworked iron mines, and handle another 600 tons of various commodities. Even with

this promised business the Passaic and Delaware was unmoved, and it was not until after the Rockaway Valley was building into Peapack that the Lackawanna extended the Passaic and Delaware there to give competition.

The ever increasing peach orchards in northern Hunterdon county and the necessity of freighting the crop to White House by wagon for shipment to New York and Boston made it imperative that a railroad be built north out of White House.

A meeting was held in Clinton on October 20, 1887, to consider a line into the peach country. The Hunterdon *Republican* of October 26th stated:

> A railroad meeting was held in Clinton last Thursday to take into consideration plans for building a road from Clinton to Morristown. Mr. Melick, of New Germantown, was present and stated that $30,000 would be needed, and that the road would run through New Germantown, Peapack, and Mendham connecting with the Morris and Essex [Lackawanna Railroad] at Morristown. A committee was formed to secure subscriptions.

John E. V. Melick, who was to play the leading role in the construction of the railroad, had lived around Hunterdon during his early life. Later he went to Illinois to be bill clerk in the State's House of Representatives. From there he was appointed on a civil engineering corps to inspect western railroads. During this work he picked up his knowledge of railroading, and upon conclusion of the investigation he returned to New Jersey to outline his ideas for the railroad from Clinton.

The apparently serious intention of the Hunterdon people to build to Morristown led the Lackawanna Railroad to make an immediate survey out to Mendham. When it was clear that the Rockaway Valley would not reach Morristown for several years, the Lackawanna made a more leisurely study of the Mendham branch before incorporating the Morristown and Mendham Railroad on July 20, 1888.

Andrew Reasoner, superintendent of the Lackawanna, studied the feasibility of a line to Mendham. In a letter dated May 23, 1888, to President Sam Sloan, he said that the citizens had raised some money for acquiring land, but that the eight-mile line would cost $213,000 completed, half of the cost to be for grading

and bridges. Five stations were proposed for the railroad, with terminal facilities at Mendham. It was to follow the route which later the Rockaway Valley would cover.

The Lackawanna, with a realistic approach to the potential business, thought the matter over and did not construct the line. Except at Mendham little business could be expected, even though the Morristown *Jerseyman* glowingly pointed out in the December 2nd issue that at Brookside there were iron mines and milk, cement quarries at Ralston, lime in abundance, and fine agriculture. The Rockaway Valley later found that iron, cement, lime, and agriculture above Mendham would produce very little business, even when there was no motor truck competition.

Construction Starts

Reports circulated immediately after the October meeting at Clinton, aimed at getting every one on the bandwagon, gave the impression that New Germantown and Pottersville had subscribed heavily although little had been done up at Peapack and Morristown. A month after that meeting, however, the *Republican* admitted:

> The stories that have been freely circulated that large sums of money have been subscribed by men in the vicinity of White House and New Germantown for the construction of a railroad from Clinton to Morristown are probably considerably exaggerated. It was also stated that $40,000 had been subscribed in Morristown toward the project, but the Morristown *Banner* says, "the fact is, nothing has been subscribed, and the effort to get a meeting was a failure." There seems to be nothing definite but the stakes, although Mr. Melick, who is pushing the scheme, must have some substantial reason for the large amount of work he has done.

This was to be a typical situation throughout construction. The little line was never able to build up much enthusiasm for financial aid until the track was next door. Money was scarce because of the sparsely settled and agrarian nature of the country.

With the Lackawanna considering $27,000 a mile the minimum cost to build to Mendham, the Rockaway Valley promoters came to the conclusion, at least for purposes of public informa-

tion, that only $15,000 would be necessary when using 56# steel rail or only $12,500 a mile with 50# rail.

Various meetings were held at points along the proposed line as far north as Brookside. At the Feb. 22, 1888, meeting at New Germantown it was finally decided to start the railroad. The Hunterdon county *Democrat* announced this fact shortly after:

A railroad meeting was held February 22nd at New Germantown. Sufficient money has been subscribed to obtain a charter and steps are now being taken to build the railroad as far as that place. The funds at hand do not warrant going farther at present.

The March 28th issue of the Hunterdon *Republican* proudly announced, in an article dated March 26, White House:

The Rockaway Valley Railroad is an assured success. The money to build it is fully subscribed, and the necessary deposit of $2000 per mile is made with the State authorities, and the charter obtained to build at first from this point to New Germantown. The officers are: Jas. N. Pidcock, President; W. W. Sutton, Vice President; Robert Craig, Treasurer; J. R. Fisher, Secretary; A. A. Clark, Counsel; J. E. V. Melick, Superintendent and Engineer. The work of procuring the right of way will begin at once. This road will run through one of the richest valleys in the State, and the hillsides abound in rich iron ore, which can now be developed. At Pottersville, a point on the road, are some of the heaviest water powers unoccupied within the same distance of the seashore, although there are several mills, an iron foundry, and machine shop already there. Both at this point and at New Germantown there are some of the largest peach orchards, and it is expected that at least as many baskets will be shipped as last year, when upwards of 200,000 were hauled in wagons to Chester, White House, and other points.

The road will be an entirely independent company as far as ownership is concerned, but will be an important feeder to the New Jersey Central. Its bonds are not to be over $10,000 or $12,500 per mile bearing 6 per cent interest, payable semi annually, and arrangements now made virtually have the interest guaranteed. The office of the President and Superintendent will be this place [White House].

It was decided to build from White House rather than Clinton because the latter place was seven or eight miles further away from New Germantown. Also, Pidcock, who owned large orchards along the line and was to finance the road, lived in White House.

View of New Germantown about 1850. Reprinted from Barber and Howe's "Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey" (1852).

Rockaway Valley #3 with a Rockaway Valley combination car at Pottersville about 1892.

On March 29, 1888, the Rockaway Valley Railroad Company was incorporated to build a line from White House Station to New Germantown (since renamed Oldwick), four miles. The name Rockaway Valley was undoubtedly chosen because the railroad crossed the Rockaway Creek and followed a valley as far as Pottersville, which is eight miles north of White House.

The initial directors of the company were James N. Pidcock, of White House Station, who owned 200 shares; Alvah A. Clark, of Somerville, with 20 shares; Henry C. Hoffman, of New Germantown, with 20 shares; William W. Sutton, also of New Germantown, with 100 shares; John Lane, of New Germantown, with 10 shares; H. S. Potter, of Pottersville, with 10 shares, and John E. V. Melick with 40 shares. $60,000 of stock was issued and a like amount of bonds. Throughout the construction Pidcock was to handle the financing and Melick was to handle construction.

Pidcock was born in 1836 and during his youth worked for the Belvidere and Delaware Railroad. Later he worked on several other railroads, was associated in the livestock business, and entered politics. At first he was a state senator, and then he was elected to the United States Congress as a member of the House of Representatives. His orchards were the largest in northern Hunterdon and were the largest to be served by the railroad.

J. P. Brothers, of White House, was given the contract to build the line. Construction started May 17, 1888, when 22 laborers arrived, wheelbarrows were made, and stakes were driven. All work was to be done by pick, shovel, wheelbarrow, and dirt cars.

Leaving the Jersey Central's tracks right opposite the depot at White House Station, the line dropped down a grade to the South Branch of Rockaway Creek. This grade caused the first accident on the foundling line when several cars of ties ran away down the grade and were smashed.

Melick wasted little time purchasing a locomotive, a 4-4-0 type, probably from the Pennsylvania Railroad. Named the "P. W. Melick" after his father, the locomotive arrived on July 15th and was immediately put into operation to finish the track laying.

Construction of the line from White House to New Germantown involved few grades and little cut or fill work. Two low

trestles of upwards of a hundred feet in length had to be constructed over the North and South Branches of the Rockaway Creek. After the line dropped downgrade to the South Branch, it followed a gradually rising terrain to New Germantown.

Lightweight rail of 56 pounds to the yard was used, and the ties were spaced as far apart as Melick considered he could make them and still have the track hold together when a train passed over. This cheap construction was used on the entire line all the way to Morristown. In later years the poor construction was to plague the railroad and cause high track maintenance costs, but at least Melick could boast that he didn't spend much to make the line. In places the ties were between 2½ and 3 feet apart, whereas 19 inches is considered about standard today. The little preparatory ground work for the road bed, the light rail, and the few ties resulted in a railroad that cost only about $15,000 a mile.

By the last week in August, 1888, the track had been laid into New Germantown, and late in September the railroad was in business. The Hunterdon *Republican* kept the citizens well posted about the railroad and informed them on September 26th that the line was open for business:

> The Rockaway Valley Railroad Company is now receiving freight at New Germantown and points along the line, and the amount of business offered is more than expected, the people crowding it on the railroad before it is finished. The Company will put in sidings at each road crossing for the delivery of freight, and give every accommodation possible to the people. The lime and coal business will be conducted under the control of the company.

The November 14th issue announced that three trips were being made a day:

> The new Rockaway Valley Railroad is now running three trains each way daily between White House and New Germantown, and the number of passengers is gradually increasing. The coal trade is conducted through Mr. J. R. Fisher and sold by the agents for the benefit of the Company. During August and September the contractor carried the freight offered, and being the peach season, demonstrated the fact that it would be a safe investment. Steps are being taken to extend the road to Pottersville.

As would be expected, the team of Pidcock and Melick were by no means satisfied with stopping permanently at New Ger-

mantown, and immediately they took steps to raise money to extend the line another four miles to Pottersville.

The initial line was built with a bond issue of $60,000. No additional bonds were required to build to Peapack, apparently, as there is no record of it in the county court houses. It appears that the railroad was able to get close to face value on the bonds, and that the stock was not given away to purchasers of bonds, as was the case later on when the precarious financial condition of the line made investors skeptical.

The arrival of winter with its frozen ground prevented immediate extension. During the winter various schemes were dreamed up to build the railroad through Morristown and some eighteen miles further to Montclair.

The completion of the railroad to New Germantown in time to take out a few peaches and to do a little business allowed the Company to earn the grand total of $992.46 gross for the year 1888: a pretty small sum when it is realized that a single car of coal shipped from Illinois to California would have a freight bill higher than all the 1888 revenues.

The first annual meeting was held on November 26, 1888, at New Germantown and the *Republican* dutifully reported it December 5th:

> The stockholders of the Rockaway Valley Railroad held their first annual meeting on Monday of last week, November 26. An exhibit of the receipts and expenses of the road was made by the Superintendent, and of the coal business done by the Secretary, which satisfied the stockholders that, as the business of the road was increasing and making a profit, efforts should be made at once to extend this road to Pottersville. Mr. James N. Pidcock has subscribed $10,000 towards the new extension and Mr. Robert Craig, who has large milling interests in Pottersville will, it is understood, subscribe heavily. When such men are found investing largely in a business it is a pretty sure sign that it will be profitable. With this start to the subscription book those having it in charge start out with a much better heart than they did one year ago for now they have a successful business and a railroad built to back them up and before another year rolls by the cry, "change cars for New Germantown, Pottersville, and Peapack" will be heard on the Central Road at White House Station.

(To be continued)

The Princeton Bank's 125th Anniversary

BRAY HAMMOND

When the Princeton Bank was established one hundred and twenty-five years ago, business corporations were not so common as they have since become, and, being fairly strange, they aroused considerable uneasiness. It was often remarked that they were artificial persons as distinguished from natural ones—a difference that sometimes seemed to be in their favor and sometimes not.

For investors and managers, the corporate form of business enterprise had advantages that were just beginning to be recognized as very great. Among these were the advantages of being larger than an individual man and longer lived—even immortal. There was also the advantage that they limited their owners' liabilities. With the public at large the business corporation found less favor. Most natural persons were accustomed to dealing with other natural persons and preferred them to artificial ones. Corporations, they complained, had neither bodies to be kicked nor souls to be damned. Individuals who were honest and decent by themselves, it was said, became villains when incorporated into companies.

In 1834, banks were the most numerous kind of business corporation and therefore the worst. The President of the United States, Andrew Jackson himself, is said to have confessed that he was afraid of banks, and they are the only things he is reported to have feared—not Indians, Englishmen, bobcats, or bears—only bankers. But in 1834 there were men in Princeton braver than President Jackson—men who established this bank.

The Address here printed, with minor revisions, was delivered in Princeton, November 10, 1959, under the auspices of the Historical Society of Princeton, on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Princeton Bank and Trust Company. The speaker, Assistant Secretary Emeritus of the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, is author of *Banks and Politics in America, from the Revolution to the Civil War,* published by the Princeton University Press, 1957, and in 1958 awarded the Pulitzer Prize in history.

It is thanks to their boldness that we have this anniversary to celebrate.

One hundred and twenty-five years is a respectable age. I am still a little short of it myself, and for that very reason perhaps I am the more impressed. And yet it is not so rare a phenomenon as one might suppose, at least among banks, where it suggests nothing like the decrepitude associated with advanced years among men. But in this country we are too much accustomed to change. We are impatient to get rid of the old article and replace it with one that is newer, bigger, and noisier. Not so in banking, however. People still love to borrow and will accept no substitute for it. The number of banks that have survived the shocks and panics of more than a century is substantial. Names and charters may have changed, but the corporate entity—the going concern—has continued. Most of the leading banks in Philadelphia and New York are more than a hundred years old, and here in New Jersey, I am told, there are thirty-five in that class. The Princeton Bank and the Philadelphia National Bank have been correspondents since 1834. The Princeton Bank and the Bank of New York—the oldest in the country—were correspondents as long ago as 1839. Age need not be a mere curiosity but a virtue—a normal, healthy, and praiseworthy condition, which can continue only so long as each generation is characterized by responsibility, open-mindedness, and sagacity.

Banking Prospects in 1834

In 1834, the inhabitants of Princeton, and of America generally, were in a more sanguine mood than they are in nowadays, 125 years later. Both locally and nationally, the prospects were bright. The keys to America's wealth had been found in mechanized industry, which, aside from the boiler explosions and collisions which blew up passengers and employees now and then, seemed to promise nothing but a vast amount of good for the country. America's resources were bountiful, and she was skimming into something like the millennium on a tide of industrialization. The country was blessed with a growing population. And from nowhere in the world was there an alarming threat to domestic peace and prosperity.

As for the international situation, so far as the Americans were concerned there was almost none. This absence of a near interest in international affairs was one chief reason for the difference between the outlook then and now. America was off by herself and safe. Bad news from abroad was about other people, and it was not pouring in every minute. The news was bad for the Americans only when prices were poor in Britain, for that was where the Americans sold the bulk of their cotton, their foodstuffs, and their investment securities. At the moment, in 1834, the news was prevailingly good, as it had been for ten years or so and was to be for two or three more, until 1837. when the Americans were to suffer their first great economic setback. Meanwhile Britain was prosperous and was eagerly taking what America had to sell; and America was eagerly reciprocating. She was buying foreign goods enthusiastically for use in her homes and for the improvement of her means of production and transport.

Princeton was in the thick of these improvements, not least of them being the construction of canals and railways. What was happening here was far more than a matter of local history. Princeton, being midway between Philadelphia and New York, had long been concerned with coach and turnpike transport, but now, in 1834, the Delaware and Raritan canal was completed, and the Camden and Amboy Railroad had started service between Camden and South Amboy. The canal was a project of Princeton residents mainly, and of Commodore Robert Field Stockton in particular. The canal and the railway were a joint enterprise arranged by Commodore Stockton and the sons of the engineer, John Stevens of Hoboken. The Princeton and the Hoboken groups, whose respective interests in a canal and in a railway had at first been mutually obstructive, were sensible enough to unite rather than fight and to get legislative authority for their union. The canal and railway, owned by the Joint Companies, were by no means the first in the United States, but they were among the earliest and among the most successful. The two projects, typical of the enterprise that possessed the whole country, made Princeton a confident, bustling community

and gave prompt occasion in 1834 for establishment of the Princeton Bank.

No one in Princeton—or anywhere else—had more sanguine energy than Robert Field Stockton, who in 1834, at the age of 39, was living at home in the long interval between his earlier and later naval careers. He had fought in his teens and early twenties as an officer in the War of 1812 and in the war on the Algerine pirates. He had obtained territory in Africa, at the point of two pistols, for repatriated Negroes in what became the Republic of Liberia. He had been active in extirpating the slave trade. Years later, he distinguished himself in the conquest of California. But in the interval of some twenty years he was living at Morven, and except for occasional duty at sea, he was active in business and New Jersey politics. He was wealthy by inheritance and had married the daughter of a wealthy South Carolina merchant, John Potter, who came up from Charleston, after his daughter's marriage, to live in Princeton and to participate in his son-in-law's enterprises. Commodore Stockton's grandfather was a signer of the Declaration of Independence; his father had been a United States senator, as was the Commodore himself, his son, and at times his brother-in-law John Renshaw Thomson and his cousin Richard Stockton Field. He was a Jackson Democrat and typical of the aggressive businessmen prominent in Andrew Jackson's following. Altogether he was a man of intrepidity, enterprise, and power—a man of diverse interests and accomplishments, more typical of that era than of the present. It is not surprising that in 1834 he was one of the organizers and directors of the Princeton Bank.

The Rival Cities

The background of the bank was far more than local. To see it properly one needs to return to the national scene and to consider first the rivalry then subsisting between Princeton's two neighbors, Philadelphia and New York. For a century or more Philadelphia had been the metropolis of America, but she was losing ground to New York, and shortly she was to lose her leadership in business. In a sense, the primacy passed to New

York through Princeton; for two of the men most directly and dramatically concerned in the greater concentration of business at New York were Princeton alumni. The first was Colonel Aaron Burr of the class of 1772 and the second was Nicholas Biddle of the class of 1801. Each had stood at the head of his class; both were among the most brilliant and most unfortunate public men in our history, the end each came to being a disappointing denial of the promise with which he had begun.

Aaron Burr's success in obtaining a charter for the Bank of the Manhattan Company in 1799 had broken the conservative monopoly of the Federalist party in New York and provided credit for a fresher and more aggressive kind of business enterprise. Men of ambition and ability flocked to New York. By 1816 the city had a system of auctioning goods that made her market the most attractive in the country. The city was surging ahead, making the most of the geographic advantages it already had, and topping them in 1825 with the Erie Canal, which gave it a much readier access to the West than Philadelphia could achieve.

Philadelphia, however, still retained, in the Bank of the United States, the largest business corporation in the country, chartered by the Federal government and ably administered by Nicholas Biddle. Not till Biddle and his institution were overthrown could Wall Street gain the financial primacy still held by Chestnut Street. Biddle allowed himself to be drawn into politics as an adversary of Andrew Jackson. He was a high-minded aristocrat, quite unable to adapt himself to the tough Jacksonian world, or to comprehend that a New Yorker could—or would even try to—get around a Philadelphian. He seems never to have realized that though the fighting was led by Andrew Jackson in Washington, it was instigated by Philadelphia's rivals in New York.

In coveting the Bank of the United States, Wall Street was interested in something much more substantial than mere prestige. Since the Federal government's income at that time was derived mainly from duties on imports, and since New York had become the foremost American seaport, the bulk of the

Federal income was collected at the New York custom house. It was collected from New York merchants in funds drawn on New York banks, and in 1828 it was enough to run the entire Federal government. Those funds were then deposited in the Bank of the United States, which was the Federal depository and was managed by Philadelphians. Neither the New York banks nor the New York merchants liked that. They wanted the funds to remain in New York and in their own control.

New York's opportunity came with the approaching expiration of the Federal bank's charter in 1836. And in Martin Van Buren, who in 1829 resigned the governorship of New York to become Andrew Jackson's Secretary of State and adviser, Wall Street had an adroit agent. General Jackson was easily influenced by his friends, and the dislike he already felt for all banks was readily centered on the bank that was biggest. Besides the General, Wall Street had on its side two groups which one might suppose had nothing in common at all. These were, first, agrarians in general, the old-fashioned class which Thomas Jefferson had led and to which Andrew Jackson belonged, who felt an ancient fear of the commercial and financial world and of a strongly centralized Federal government such as Alexander Hamilton had desired. The second group in the alliance was the newer and more aggressive part of the business world, which the agrarians hated. It comprised especially the local banks and their borrowers. These banks found themselves crowded by the United States bank and its sixteen branches, and they often found occasion to blame it for their inability to lend as much as the business men, their borrowers, wanted. These banks were all state institutions, and in general closely allied with state officials and politicians.

The bank in Philadelphia had against it, therefore, the personal animosity of President Jackson, the animosity of the state banks, the animosity of bank borrowers, and the animosity of people who thought Federal powers should be curbed in favor of the states. The combination of these was skilfully and energetically managed by Jackson's lieutenants. Nicholas Biddle, whose abilities did not lie in the field of politics and public re-

lations, could not prevail against so much hostility. Congress renewed the Bank's charter but President Jackson vetoed it. That was in July, 1832, while the Delaware and Raritan canal was being dug and the Camden and Amboy tracks were being laid. The veto was a demagogic triumph and in November the election was overwhelmingly in Jackson's favor. He and Wall Street had won. Nicholas Biddle and Philadelphia had lost.

But there remained more than three years of life for the Bank of the United States. Its charter would run to 1836. New York could be patient about that, though the Democrats had introduced measures in Congress to charter banks in New York and in Boston which should replace the monster in Philadelphia. But Andrew Jackson could not be patient. He longed to smash the Bank of the United States before its time; and at least he could remove the Federal deposits from it and put them in state banks.

Boom in Local Banks

This precipitancy scared the bankers at first, and severe tightness prevailed in money markets in early 1834 at the time the Princeton Bank obtained its charter. Bankers soon swung around, however, to a liking for Jackson's offer. Already a large part of the business world—especially the younger and more enterprising part—belonged to Jackson's party, and the majority of his advisers and party leaders were business men and politicians allied with them. In New York and Massachusetts the bankers were almost identical with the Democratic party leadership. Alexander Hamilton's son had left the Federalists and become a personal adviser to Andrew Jackson. And in Princeton, Commodore Robert Field Stockton, a power in the canal and railway projects, the son of a Federalist, had in the same way become a Jackson Democrat.

In these circumstances—with business booming everywhere—local banks were being promoted throughout the country. The situation was in every way favorable for the charter of a bank in Princeton. The big bank in Philadelphia would soon close and its immense business could be lapped up by local banks throughout the country. The Secretary of the Treasury, Roger Taney, en-

couraged those in which he deposited government funds to lend them generously. He wrote the pet banks that he hoped each of them would adopt the most liberal course toward other monied institutions. "The deposits of the public money," he wrote them, "will enable you to afford increased facilities to commerce and to extend your accommodations to individuals. And as the duties which are payable to the government arise from the business and enterprise of the merchants engaged in foreign trade, it is but reasonable that they should be preferred." All this was sanguine and exciting. It was common expectation that the Federal debt would be wholly paid the year following, restrictions on credit would be ended, and money would be easy. Prospects had never been rosier.

Since Commodore Stockton was a Jackson man, as were some but not all of his associates, it may be thought the bank expected to get some of the Federal deposits. That was the way things were done. But the bank got its charter, February 27, 1834, and several months passed before it was organized and ready for business. President Jackson and Roger Taney had already chosen the pet banks and begun depositing Federal funds in them in October, 1833. The organizers of the Princeton Bank doubtless meant to get some Federal deposits if they could, for the Treasury's plan was a matter of public knowledge, and eventually, of course, the bank did get some, but it was not one of the original pet banks.

A Study in Contrasts

The differences between banking then and now are conspicuous. Then banks issued circulating notes, and these notes comprised the bulk of the money in hand-to-hand use by the public. Some banks, especially the smaller ones, had larger note issues than deposits; in the big cities deposits were the larger. To-day, of course, banks issue no notes; their liabilities are to depositors.

Perhaps the greatest change is that in the importance of depositors to banks. A hundred and twenty-five years ago, banks operated far more than they do today on their capital funds. The Princeton Bank, for example, in 1838 had capital funds of about $95,000 and these equaled some 80% of the amount it owed note holders and depositors. About the middle of the 19th century the

ratio of capital to public liabilities became universally less; and today the average for all banks is around 10 or 11%, though from bank to bank the ratio may vary considerably and is highest among the largest metropolitan banks. Yet banking was more profitable then than it is now, because the rate of income was higher and the rate of expenses lower. A century and a quarter ago, most of the customers seen in a bank were borrowers. Today the one borrower biggest of all is not found in any bank but in Washington; and banks are not filled mostly with borrowers but with depositors.

In 1838, the Princeton Bank was lending the government nothing. This was no reflection on its patriotism. Banks lent occasionally to the Federal government, but the main demand for credit came from home, not from Washington. It is true that banks were then becoming important holders of bonds issued by states, municipalities, canal companies, and railways; but they were still making mostly commercial loans based on local production and the local sale of merchandise. So the Princeton Bank, in these early years, seems to have had its funds mostly in commercial loans and discounted paper.

There is a great difference today; the demand for credit has changed immensely and the portfolios of banks have changed with it. Today any banker can fill his portfolio with government and corporate obligations without looking up from his desk. What he has to go after is the local business that originally constituted the whole demand and that bankers used to depend on exclusively. Accordingly the Princeton Bank's earning assets today are mostly government obligations, Federal, state, and municipal, as is typical of banks generally; and the paper corresponding roughly to what was formerly its total holding is now less than half of the present total of earning assets. Even so, much of that paper would look strange to the original directors, including as it does loans collateraled by securities, bonds, and mortgages; and to the original directors' particular mystification, automobile loans and other installment paper. But the credit instruments of that day would look just as curious to the bank's present directors.

Change and Persistence

The establishment of the Princeton Bank 125 years ago carries us back to the heart of a vivid, creative period in which the economy and society of the present had its beginning. Our economy and society are still those of enterprise, industry, finance, and democracy. They are changing now as they were then, but the changes are not yet of such magnitude and scope but that 1834 and 1959 stand close to each other still, both characterized by a spirit quite new in 1834, and belonging rather to what followed 1834 than to what preceded. The nation under the Federal Constitution was then forty-five years old, but what a change had come about in those forty-five years! One sees it at a glance in portraits of George Washington and Andrew Jackson, who were but forty years apart and yet belonged obviously to different centuries and different societies. Between their respective administrations the world had been changed by the Industrial Revolution and the ideal of *laisser faire*. Steam and credit had taken over, and a population formerly agrarian was becoming absorbed in mechanization and enterprise. The Age of Jackson is still our age, even though it brings us uneasiness in place of the confidence and the ardor that it brought to the men who set up the Princeton Bank in 1834. To be sure, it may not continue the same much longer; for change is upon us as it was upon them. Nevertheless, so far as we can see, the Age of Jackson—of enterprise and credit and material interest—is still our age.

Sussex County Campaigners in 1865

WARREN D. CUMMINGS

Governor Joel Parker probably didn't consider his trip to Sussex county in January of 1865 as a portent of anything, but as he shivered through his sleigh ride from Newton to Franklin,[1] he would have suffered even more had he realized that Sussex county was to cause him more than its quota of trouble all year.

It was bad enough already. He was in the county to attend the funeral of Dr. Sam Fowler of Franklin, who had died in Trenton at the age of forty-eight. Fowler had been a Member of the Assembly, a Democrat like Parker, and his death left the count in the Lower House 29 for the Democrats and 30 for the Unionists.[2]

Of course Fowler's seat was safe for the Democrats; Richard E. Edsall was elected without opposition in February. But to forestall Unionist control, it was necessary for the Democrats to walk out of the Assembly in the interim.[3] This, in an election year. was poor public relations.

In March Democratic public relations were made even worse, and the other Sussex county Assemblyman (a Democrat, of course; it would be another twenty years before a Republican had a chance in the county) was at the root of the trouble.

The story is interesting in that it illustrates the philosophy of the Copperheads, the left wing of Northern Democracy:

A bill was before the legislature to incorporate a Sussex county association for the purpose of erecting a monument to members of the armed forces "who have fallen in the military service in the suppression of the present unholy rebellion." Non-controversial? Not to a Copperhead. Assemblyman W. M. Iliff of Sussex moved

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[1] *Sussex Register*, Jan. 14, 1865.
[2] *Ibid.*, Jan. 28, 1865.
[3] *Ibid.*, Feb. 8, 1865.

to strike "unholy." The motion was lost. Then Democrats proposed "righteous" as a substitute adjective. Lost again. "Unjustifiable" met a like fate. Twenty Democrats joined the Unionists in voting down these changes,[4] which from this distance seem almost treasonable.

It was with a sense of excitement aroused by the scent of possible triumph that the Union-Republican convention met in Trenton on July 20, 1865. The fortunes of the Democrats were at a low ebb. They had sneered at the war; it had been won. They had sneered at Lincoln; he had died a martyr. They had refused to ratify the anti-slavery Amendment; every other Northern state had done so. New Jersey was filling up with returning soldiers, most of whom had believed in the war in which they had fought, had revered Lincoln, and wanted the fruits of their sacrifice ratified into permanency.

Furthermore, the party had split into four factions:

1. "War" Democrats, who were loyal to the Union and co-operated with the Union Republicans. (Judge Martin Ryerson of Newton, who had been a leading light of the 1844 constitutional convention and was later to be an adjudicator of the *Alabama* claims, was one of the old-line Democrats who belonged to this faction and fought his own party bitterly in the 1865 campaign.)[5]
2. "Regular" Democrats, who were loyal to the Union, but criticized the conduct of the war.
3. "Peace" Democrats, who favored immediate recognition of the Confederacy and a stop to the fighting.
4. Copperheads.[6]

No wonder the State's Democratic leaders faced November with little enthusiasm, while the Union-Republicans were full of zest and vigor.

The Union-Republican platform, quickly adopted, had ten major planks. It:

1. Welcomed peace.
2. Deplored Lincoln's death.
3. Endorsed Andrew Johnson.

[4]*Ibid.*, Mar. 10, 1865.
[5]*Ibid.*, Sept.-Oct., 1865, *passim*.
[6]Wilson *et al.*, *Outline History of New Jersey* (Rutgers, 1950), p. 228.

4. Exhumed a Democratic "manifesto" of April 4, 1861, in which ex-Governor Rodman Price exhorted Jerseymen, through the columns of the Newark *Journal,* to throw in their lot with the South.

5. Charged that Democrats had prolonged the war by discouraging volunteering, opposing the enlistment of Negro troops.

6. Claimed that the Democrats excited popular opposition to national taxes.

7. Promised bounties to honorably discharged soldiers.

8. Guaranteed to reduce state expenditures and support rigid economy (this in the next breath to #7!).

9. Sustained the Monroe Doctrine.

10. Urged the adoption of the amendment abolishing slavery, pointing out that New Jersey was the only free state not yet so to do.[7]

There were three candidates for the gubernatorial nomination. They were Marcus L. Ward, unsuccessful nominee in 1862 and chairman of the Republican national executive committee; Alexander G. Cattell, president of the Corn Exchange Bank of Philadelphia; and Major General Hugh Judson Kilpatrick, of whom more later. Ward, "The Soldiers' Friend," was chosen on the fourth ballot.[8]

The Democrats' convention was not held until August 30th. In their platform they:

1. Blamed the war on abolitionists and secessionists.
2. Opposed negro suffrage.
3. Advocated bimetalism.
4. Echoed their opponents' stand for the Monroe Doctrine.
5. Endorsed bounties for soldiers.[9]

Then, on the fourth ballot, they selected Theodore Runyon as their candidate.

With the platforms published and the candidates named, the campaign of 1865 to elect New Jersey's governor got under way. About the only thing on which everybody agreed was that it was going to be close. In the State the two parties were about evenly divided. It was going to be close, and it was going to be bitter.[10]

[7]C. E. Knapp, *New Jersey Politics During the Period of the Civil War and Reconstruction* (Geneva, N. Y., 1924), p. 149.

[8]*Ibid.*

[9]*Ibid,* p. 150.

[10]Wilson, *op. cit.,* p. 232.

Curiously enough, Ward and Runyon fade almost immediately into the wings of the political stage; the footlights were monopolized by a pair of their supporters. They started slowly. But by the time the campaign was a month old, the two Sussex County gamecocks, Congressman Andrew Jackson Rogers and Major General Hugh Judson Kilpatrick, were pasting one another in a Pier Eight brawl which ripped and roared and entertained the public all over the state.

Neither of these opponents had any inhibitions; neither had any sense of dignity. Each had a gift of undisciplined eloquence and a consuming hatred for the other. Very often they forgot the candidates entirely. No matter what the issues, Kilpatrick and Rogers were running against each other.

The Campaign Produces Champions

About Rogers not very much is known. Most of the information concerning him comes from the two Sussex county weekly newspapers of the time, the *Sussex Register* and the *New Jersey Herald*. The *Register,* Union-Republican, when it mentioned him at all, invariably prefaced his name with "depraved," "licentious," or "vulgar." For synonyms for his name it shifted between "liar" and "self-confessed defamer." In the *Herald,* on the other hand, there are some referencs to a great statesman and pure white knight, Jack Rogers, but the *Herald* in this period was poorly edited and printed very little news at all.

Rogers seems to have been a native of the village of Lafayette, where he worked as an auctioneer before moving to Newton to study and later to practice law. After building an extensive practice, he was elected to Congress in 1862 from the (then) Third Congressional District, which included the counties of Bergen, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Essex except for the city of Newark. He was re-elected in 1864 but defeated in 1866. Shortly thereafter he moved to New York City and disappeared into Tammany Hall, to reappear in Sussex county only for an occasional Fourth of July oration.[11]

Those are the salient facts of the Rogers political career in New

[11] *New Jersey Herald, Sussex Register,* 1860-1870, *passim.*

Jersey, but they do little to illumine the Rogers personality. Here is a brief story from the day after the election of Lincoln in 1864 that helps to reveal it in all its audacity:

From the *Sussex Register,* November 9, 1864:

"Jack" Rogers and his retinue of followers appeared at the telegraph office and denied the truth of dispatches announcing Lincoln's election. He announced his intention to go to New York and get the correct returns, meanwhile calling for three cheers for McClellan, groans for the Newton aristocrats, and wound up by shouting, "Now, boys, give three cheers for me." The "correct returns" were never forwarded by the redoubtable Jack.

About his opponent, Judson Kilpatrick, there is more available. He was a cadet at West Point when the war broke out. Wounded in one of the earliest engagements, he came home to Sussex county to recuperate and to recruit for the Harris Light Cavalry. He went back to win rapid promotion to Brigadier General and eventually to Major General. Bruce Catton's sketch of him in *A Stillness at Appomattox* is the best[12], though if he was as eager to be governor as Catton suggests, it is hard to explain why he declined to allow his name to be presented in 1877[13], and again in 1880, when, it appears:

A few of the delegates were clamorous for Kilpatrick, but the eloquent little cavalryman leaped to the foot-lights to beg them to fall in line for the Hunterdon Senator.[14]

And why, if he wanted a place in state or national politics, did he twice allow himself to be shipped off as our Minister to Chili (*sic*), where he finally died?

The Great Debate

October 2, 1865. It was Thursday, and the Republicans were holding a mass meeting in the county park at Newton, Sussex's county seat. This park corresponds to the commons of New England communities and was a natural spot for the kick-off of the county campaign. Here is the *Sussex Register* account, written by B. B. Edsall, a one-time Whig Congressional candidate, a Kilpatrick partisan, and a far from impartial political reporter:

[12]Bruce Catton, *A Stillness at Appomattox* (New York, 1953), p. 3 ff.
[13]W. E. Sackett, *Modern Battles of Trenton* (Trenton, 1895), p. 154.
[14]*Ibid.,* p. 164.

The speeches of Messrs. Swift and Bement were well received and a fair degree of order was maintained during their delivery, but it was evident to all that there was a set of turbulent Copperheads hanging on the flanks of the meeting, full of vindictiveness and whiskey.

However, when Kilpatrick began to speak, a near-riot broke loose, with Rogers, said the *Register,* egging on the roughnecks to make so much noise that the general couldn't be heard.

General Kilpatrick raised his clear and ringing voice high above the howling throng, and they were compelled to subside.

"Killy" told them he was going to make his speech if he had to stay there all night, and after that they listened, although

When galled they roared like a drove of motherless bull calves.

The little cavalryman roared back:

"We have got you now on the defensive and we intend to keep you there, just as Grant kept your friend and ally the Rebel General Robert E. Lee until he was compelled to surrender."

Henry C. Kelsey, leading local Democrat and later to be Secretary of State and leader of the notorious "State House Gang," tried to restrain the rampant Democracy, but nobody could hold down Rogers for long.[15] As the *New York Tribune,* October 4, 1865, told the story:

The General accused A. J. Rogers of sympathizing with treason throughout the Rebellion, with advising him (Kilpatrick) to resign in 1861 and have nothing to do with coercing the States of the South, with having discouraged enlistments, with having recently advocated repudiation, and with being at heart as great a traitor today as the vilest rebel in the South.

The honorable gentleman (Rogers) sang out from among the audience: "I never advocated repudiation of the national debt, and I here brand the man who says I did as an infamous liar." Several voices—"You did. You did." Tremendous excitement, during which some stones were thrown . . .[16]

The *Register* goes on to say that Rogers demanded a half-hour for rebuttal and finally got it, but wandered off to the Cochran House bar with a group of his henchmen before it was time to use it.

[15] *Sussex Register,* Oct. 6, 1865.
[16] As quoted in the *Sussex Register,* Oct. 6, 1865.

However, the *Herald* for October 5, 1865, saw the whole thing a little differently. To Democratic eyes the cavalryman seemed to be on the defensive:

> The great effort of his speech was to prove that he was not a coward—which nobody ever charged; nobody ever denied that he was a brave, blustering, half-crazy daredevil.

The same week's issue of the *Register* announced that Rogers, in a letter to the Newark *Journal,* had challenged Kilpatrick to debate him throughout the state and that the general had accepted in the columns of the *Jersey City Times.* Kilpatrick suggested twelve meetings and eleven were arranged. The two irascibles met in Newark, October 7; at Camden, the 10th; Bridgeton, the 11th; Red Bank, the 13th; Jersey City, the 16th; New Brunswick, the 17th; Boonton, the 19th; Flemington, the 24th; Rahway, the 26th; Somerville, the 28th; Belvidere, the 31st. This brought the schedule down to the last week before the election, and Kilpatrick was scheduled to speak every afternoon and evening in Sussex county that week, while the Congressman had commitments elsewhere.[17]

Five thousand gathered in front of the Court House in Newark Saturday afternoon. Rules were drawn up and presiding officials selected from both parties. The gavel-wielder was Morris R. Hamilton, editor of the Newark *Journal,* and undoubtedly an old acquaintance of both principals, for he had once been a Newton newspaperman.

Rogers opened the Newark debate with thirty minutes mostly devoted to "equal taxation." More particularly he was arguing for the right of the state to tax the income from United States Government bonds. This was a major plank in the Democratic platform, and a cause of much controversy in 1865.

Kilpatrick had an hour after this and he answered Rogers before going on to other issues. He pooh-poohed the fears of negro equality. The race was naturally inferior, he said.[18] Then he blamed the Democrats for the troubles of the war and accused them of treason:

[17]Newark *Daily Advertiser,* Oct. 9, 1865.
[18]*Ibid.*

I am not willing to see the rebels of the South, whose hands are yet red with the blood of our fallen braves, restored to all their old rights and privileges; and that, too, before they have shed one penitential tear for the great crimes they have committeed. I will not stand tamely by and see the triumph of that band of pitiable traitors in my native State who, while professing loyalty to the Union and the Constitution, have ever gloried in the progress of treason—men who now call themselves Democrats.[19]

The debate was warming up. Rogers returned for his second half-hour, passionately defended the states' rights doctrine and came up with a typical bit of soap-box logic when he suggested that

the fact that three or four Presidents who were elected by other parties during the past forty years to be succeeded by Vice Presidents of Democratic proclivities looked like an evidence that the Almighty was on the side of the Democratic party.[20]

He attacked the national credit, upheld secession, and showed that John Wilkes Booth was an agent of Heaven![21]

The two adversaries gave mostly repeat performances at the other points of the tour, and there is little new to report. To five thousand who gathered at Bridgeton Rogers gave practically the same speech, and we may assume that Kilpatrick did the same.

At Jersey City Kilpatrick dwelt upon the inconsistency of the opposition in pretending to support the President while opposing the adoption of the anti-slavery Amendment. He was considerably pepped up, as was the whole Republican organization, by the results of the Newark city election on October 10th. Three days after the Rogers-Kilpatrick debate, Thomas B. Peddie, the Union candidate for mayor, defeated Democrat Eliphalet Smith by 1332 votes and gained an 8-5 control of the Council. Since Newark had been consistently Democratic, this was taken as a straw in the wind by both sides. The Paterson *Guardian,* staunchly Democratic, indicated that the party disapproved of the debates, and denied that Rogers had official approval.[22]

[19]Knapp, *op. cit.,* p. 151 (footnote).
[20]Newark *Daily Advertiser,* Oct. 9, 1865.
[21]*Sussex Register,* Oct. 12, 1865.
[22]*Ibid.*

The debates drew national attention and comment. Who you thought was winning depended on your politics. From Charleston, S. C., came a sour comment:

> General Kilpatrick is stumping the state for the Republicans and is so vehement and personal in his speeches that he has stirred up anger wherever he has gone.[23]

But not enough, or perhaps not so much as Rogers stirred up. The tide was running Republican, or rather, Union—the term "Republican" does not seem to have been in common use—and it was the returning soldiers who were causing it to turn. The Democrats, shortsightedly it seems from where we sit, had actively alienated the soldiers. In 1863 and 1864, while the Union forces had advocated absentee ballots, the Democrats had barred them, expressing "high regard" for Jerseymen in the armed forces, but insisting that it would take a constitutional amendment to allow them to vote.[24]

Kilpatrick and the Republican leaders were quick to exploit this. The little cavalryman regularly poked fun at "General" Runyon's three-month war record. The Unionist-Republican get-the-soldier-vote stratagem was well organized. Receptions for return-warriors were held July 4th at Trenton and other places.[25] By Columbus Day most men had been mustered out, and Kilpatrick spoke at a great mass meeting in Trenton. There wasn't much trouble getting the assembled veterans to adopt resolutions supporting Ward for governor.[26]

The Campaign Closes

The last week of the campaign saw the two campaigners going their separate ways. Thursday, November 2nd, is a fair sample of a typical day of the last feverish week. In the afternoon a Republican rally at Branchville was addressed by Kilpatrick, Gen-

[23]As quoted in the *New Jersey Herald*, Oct. 25, 1865.
[24]R. P. McCormick, *The History of Voting in New Jersey* (Rutgers, 1953), p. 143 ff.
[25]Knapp, *op. cit.*, p. 151.
[26]*Sussex Register*, Oct. 26, 1865.

eral John A. Logan, Lieutenant Governor Bross of Illinois (another old Sussex county boy), and the Honorable Daniel S. Dickinson, a veteran Democratic war-horse from New York who had jumped the party and was famed for the rococo, free-wheeling oratory so dear to the hearts of our ancestors. At night the program was repeated in the Presbyterian church in Newton. A nefarious trick—Rogers got the blame—was the publication of a circular in Newton before the meeting, announcing that Dickinson would not appear. But he was there, as was Logan, who spoke despite illness, and Kilpatrick, who by this time was so hoarse as to be nearly inaudible.[27]

Rogers spent the last week stumping through five townships in Morris County, which was part of his Congressional district. He was in his glory—in and out of hot water at least once a day. He tangled with the eminent Martin Ryerson, accusing Ryerson of fighting state taxation of government bonds because he had a large fortune invested in federal securities. When proof was demanded, he roared back that if a statement he had made against Martin Ryerson was not true, "I hope God will strike me dead." Brought face to face with a sworn list of Ryerson's financial holdings, he coolly admitted, with disarming candor, that the story was a pure fabrication without a word of truth at all.

And then came the first Tuesday after the first Monday, and it was a close election, as elections in New Jersey so often are. As Professor McCormick has pointed out,[28] New Jersey at all times has been a doubtful state, with a shift of three or four per cent of the votes enough to shift control. When the votes had all been counted, it was Ward by a squeak—a 2,925 plurality. Kilpatrick's emotions must have been mixed: his own Sussex county, where he had worked hardest, gave Runyon the biggest plurality the loser received in any county the Democrats carried. Salve, however, came from two intelligences. The Democratic edge in the county had been cut 500 from Parker's margin in 1862, and President Johnson appointed him Minister to "Chili" a week after election.

[27] *Ibid.*, November issues, 1865.
[28] McCormick, *op. cit.*, p. 124.

Postscript

If Sussex County had been a county with a large population, or if it had been a doubtful county that could help carry the state by a swing into either column, its importance in this election would be more understandable. The county was at a high point in its production of political figures. It contained a Democratic Congressman, a leading Republican, and a near-future Secretary of State, Henry C. Kelsey, who was to make that office for thirty years a position of power, influence, and profit that it never was before or since. Just over the county line in Blairstown was a native son, John I. Blair, who was to be a later candidate on the Republican ticket. Playing in the streets of Newton when Kilpatrick and Rogers battled each other were a future Republican governor and United States Attorney General, John Griggs, and a future Democratic member of Congress, Lewis Martin. When Martin dropped dead on the platform of Washington's Union Station in 1913, the county's political eminence died with him. Sussex County's political timber is now all second growth and not yet ready for cutting.

Lieut. Colonel Joseph Barton's Court Martial in 1781

GEORGE E. MCCRACKEN, PH.D., F.A.S.C.

In the *Proceedings* for October, 1951 (Vol. 69, pp. 287-324), I published an account of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Barton (1730-1788), loyalist officer during the Revolution, in which I alluded to the trial of Colonel Barton by court martial in 1781. As evidence for this trial I then had only a certified transcript of part of the testimony given at the trial by Brigadier General Oliver DeLancey, former Governor William Franklin, the Hon. Frederick Smyth, and John Smyth, Esq., who appeared as "character witnesses" and did not make clear by their depositions the precise nature of the charges. Recently, through the courtesy of Miss Rosalie Fellows Bailey, F.A.S.G., I have learned of the existence in the Collections of the New-York Historical Society of two orderly books of the British Headquarters in New York, in which are preserved the reports of two courts martial in which Colonel Barton figured, one the trial in which he was the prisoner, mentioned above, the other a trial in which he was the complaining officer. The following transcripts are made from photostats furnished by the New-York Historical Society. The books are unpaged.

Head Quaʳˢ New York

24 June 1781

Prisoners tryed by the General Court Martial of which Lieut. COˡ Gunning 82ᵈ is President.

Lieut CO Jos Barton of the 1. Batt. N. J. Volunˢ accused by Majˢ Genˡ Skinner of Disobedience of Orders, Neglect of duty and un gentleman like behaviour.

The Court having considered the Evidence for and against the Prisoner Lieutᵗ Col Barton together with what he had to offer in his defence, is of

The Writer, a descendant of Lieut. Colonel Barton and author of an article for the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* on the Barton family, is a member of the faculty of Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.

opinion that he is guilty of this disobedience of Orders, in having crossed over and gone to Bergen Point when he was Field Officer of the day on Staten Island in breach of the latter part of the 5th Article of War of the 2d Section, and that he is also guilty of an impropriety of Conduct, in entering into an agrement to build the frame of a House for a Merchant in the City of New York, which tho' the Court do not look upon it as un gentleman like behaviour in the full extent of the 23 Article of the 15h Section, yet they they [previous word erased imperfectly] think him reprehensible for, and it comes within the Meaning of Military Neglects and disorders, alluded to in the 3d Article of War of the 20h Section. The Court doth therefore adjudge him the said Colonel Barton to be repremanded for his disobedience of Orders, and Impropriety of Conduct, by such Person and in such Manner as His Excellency the Comman[der] in Chief shall be pleased to direct.

With Respect to the several other Articles of charge exhibited against Lieut. Col. Barton in support of the three general heads of accusation (viz) disobedience of Orders, Neglect of duty, and un gentleman [like] behaviour which are as follows—

1st. The Men of his Battalion who came from Major Vandykes Corps not having been paid their extra bounty money.

2nd. His having employed Soldiers to work at Bergen Point after the 7h March contrary to General Skinner['s] Order.

3rd. Omitting to obey the Orders of the 27th Novemr respecting the returns of Prisoners taken from the enemy by the 1st Batt. N. J. Volunteers—

4th. The transactions relative to some Geese stolen by a Soldier of the 1st Batt. from Houseman, an Inhabitant of Staten Island.

5th. Those transactions relative to Walsh, a Soldier of the 1st Battalion—

6th. The exchanging a Soldier from his own Batt: to another of the same Brigade, without General Skinners knowledge—

7th. The circumstances Instanced of Col. Bartons transactions with Capt. Hopkins—

8th. Colonel Barton being out of the way when the Fortnight State of the Battalion was to be Signed.

9th. His desisting, and leaving off the building of the frame of a Regim[ental] store house at Bergen Point, he having hired and repaired one in the City of New York—

10th. His allowing a relaxation of duty in the Battalion under his Command, first by permitting Officers to go to New York when next in tour for duty, secondly not exercising the Battn himself according to Brigr Gen. Skinners Orders, and thirdly in not punishing Bowen and Vilears, a Serjeant, and a Private Soldier who deserted—

The Court is of opinion that Lieut. Col. Barton has assigned good reasons for the Omission, and Commission of such Articles as come

under these denominations, and brought such proofs of the non existence of others, that they do not conceive they come under the several heads of disobedience of Orders, Neglects of duty, and Ungentleman like behaviour, & do therefore acquit Lieut. Col. Barton thereof.

The Erazure made in the usual place of signature in the Return of Prisoners taken from the enemy by the 1st Batt: which the Court were particularly ordered to examine into appears [here several words cancelled by the pen] evident, but they have not after the most critical inquiry as appears upon the Minutes of their Proceedings, been able to discover, so as to give an opinion, when, and by whom this Erazure has been made.

The Commanr in Chief is pleased to approve of the above sentence and orders it to be put in Execution accordingly.

The other record is briefer but none the less interesting.

Head Quarters New York
13 Octor [1781]
Parole . . . London & Lipstadt
C. Sign . . . Halifax

Orders

Lieut. John Hislop of the 4th Battn New Jersey Volrs tried by the Genl Court Martial of which Majr Temple 23d Regt is President, accused by Lieut. Colonel Barton

1st with insolent and abusive language to him, Lieut. Col. Barton.

2d Challenging him Lieut. Col. Barton to fight a duel on or about the 28th day of June last

3d with behaving in a manner unlike a Genn to him Lt Cl Barton, when under an Arrest & before he Lt Col. Barton was ordered to join his Regt.

The Court having considered the Evidence in support of the charges brought against the Prisr together with the Prisrs defence, is of opinion that the Prisoner Lieut. John Hislop is not Guilty of any one, or any part of the several charges brought against him by Lt Col. Barton and do therefore honorably acquit him.

The Commander in Chief is pleased to approve of the above Sentence & orders Lt Hislop to be released from his Arrest and Join his Regiment.

THE EDITOR'S DESK

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

The tendency to lapse into nostalgia which occasionally overtakes antiquaries, archaeologists and editors of historical society publications should, no doubt, be sternly resisted. Yet who would wish to be armed against the temptations that lurk in a lost cart-track, a forgotten canal, an abandoned railroad? Mr. Taber's story of the Rock-a-bye Baby in this issue will bring to many a reader memories of smoke against a hillside, whistles far away, coal gas in a heated station, and other things now part of a past that one is happy to preserve a little longer from oblivion.

In this mood of preservation, the Editor is delighted to find, in "Antiquer's Attic", a tribute to Anne Parrish's remarkable evocation of the past in the pages of *The Perennial Bachelor.* Miss White seems a little more confident than Miss Parrish that things are better ordered now than in Victorian times, but that, perhaps, is progress.

* * *

From Mr. John N. Morris, Lecturer in the Department of English at Columbia University, has come a pleasant note on a similarly evocative letter, of even earlier date than Victorian parlors. Written by a child, Nancy Helms Stewart of Hackettstown, to her sister, Mrs. Benjamin Maurice of Savannah, Georgia, it describes a family visit to New York in July, 1804:

"I have no news to tell you," she wrote, "except that General Hammilton was killed in a Duel with Col Bur and they Burry'd him with the Honours of War we all went to Mrs Laurances to see them it was a very long Possession and there was scarcely ever so many People out on an Occation of the kind at the time when the Funeral Passed by almost all the Ladys I observed shed tears and when his four little Children came by it seem'd to affect every one."

Mr. Morris comments that the letter perhaps reveals as much about the writer and the school of sensibility in which she was brought up as it does about the dramatic event she describes. It may be so; certainly one is ready to follow the writer wherever her further adventures in syntax may lead her: "Brother took me to the Wax Work last Night I was afraid to look at General Wolf he has his hand up to his breast and the blood running out of the Wound."

Now she lies in the cemetery of St. Stephen's Protestant Episcopal Church in Perth Amboy, her tombstone stating that at the time of her death in 1845 she was 50 years old. Her hitherto unpublished letter is in the possession of her great-grandson, George H. Maurice, of Eagle Springs, North Carolina.

* * *

To round out this sentimental journey into the past, the Editor would call the attention of readers to a new bi-weekly publication, the *Century Gazette,* which announces, as we go to press, a first issue on January 9, 1960. Published at Morrison, Illinois, the *Gazette* plans to present the history of the nation 100 years ago by republishing contemporary newspaper accounts of the passing scene. The sample first issue, with front-page advertisements of patent medicines and news stories on all sorts of topics from John Brown, Dred Scott and the admission of Kansas, to Adelina Patti and the Heenan-Sayers prize-fight, puts a brave foot forward. Those who like history at first hand, free from the disadvantages (and advantages) of after-the-event interpretation, might find this treatment of it highly congenial.

ANTIQUER'S ATTIC

MARGARET E. WHITE

THOSE VICTORIAN PARLOR ORNAMENTS— REMEMBER THEM?

"She loved her parlor... To walk on the carpet was to walk on crimson roses. Between loop-backed crimson window-curtains hung cages of canaries and love-birds that she had tamed . . . Under the cages green iron plant-stands held geraniums soft as butterfly wings . . . She had crocheted the blue and green and scarlet worsted covers for the goose-egg baskets in the windows, each holding a little bunch of flowers or a feather of fern; she had made the wax pond lilies floating on their mirror pools under glass shades. And even a picture hanging on the wall was hers—a castle on a lake, with mountains and clouds for background. The sky and water were painted; and the mountains were of grey sand; the rocks, of red sand; and a road of yellow sand, sprinkled on glue. The castle was made of white birchbark . . . and, springing from the moss of the foreground, were trees—bits of untwisted rope with the strands divided at the top to make the limbs." So Anne Parrish, in *The Perennial Bachelor,* describes Margaret Campion's parlor just before the Civil War.

The wave of materialism and sentimentality that had beset England at the close of the reign of George III spread to this country early in the 19th century, passing gradually from the ridiculous to the sublime, and reaching the height of its glory and frightfulness in the 1880's. Excellent materials and endless time went into the making of works of art with which our grandparents or great grandparents decorated their homes. Today, many a conscientious housewife hesitates to discard the carved rosewood bedroom set, or the footstool worked in Berlin worsted by a great-aunt, because they are still "perfectly good."

They were all of a piece, these 19th-century creations. The house with its bay windows or brownstone front, the rooms, their furnishings and inmates, were in perfect accord. One has only to glance through *Godey's Lady's Book* or the *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine* to see the similarity between gowns, needlework and interior decoration. Take, for example, this comment on fashionable attire in 1880, "The figure was treated as a framework on which fringed draperies could be looped and crossed, much in the fashion of the heavy window curtains of the period." Do you remember those windows? White curtains of Battenberg lace, hiding, as though suffering from an inferiority complex, behind heavy draperies held back

with tasseled cords. Across the top was a stiffly pleated valance. There might be a Boston fern on an iron stand or gilded pedestal, placed in the exact center of the window and obscuring what little might be visible of the lace curtains.

Chairs were upholstered in Berlin wool work; there were even pictures worked in wool. And, as if that was not enough, Berlin wool work was described as "very suitable for ornamenting glove-cases, baskets, pocket-books, cigar-cases, etc." Permit us to quote again from *The Perennial Bachelor:* "In winter, when she could not be among her flowers, Mamma learned new stitches in knitting and crochet, and everything in the house became covered with woolwork as things in damp countries are covered with mould—even the bird cages dripped crochet borders."

One might think that Anne Parrish exaggerated, and perhaps she did a little, but there are those among us who can recall parlors of the late Victorian period, parlors eminently suitable for our great-aunts. The elaborate crystal chandeliers, the gilt chairs too delicate to sit on, the marble bust or figure on a pedestal in one corner, filled childish hearts with awe. Then there was the marble mantel with a great glass above, into which the ladies furtively glanced. On the mantel shelf, in the exact center, stood a French clock under a glass dome. Flanking this center piece with geometric precision would be a series of ornaments terminating in a pair of porcelain vases imported from abroad. Somewhere in the room there might be a vase filled with feather flowers — a riotous bouquet of every kind and shade of feather, protected under glass. Or it might be a basket of flowers constructed entirely of shells, nuts, worsted or wax.

On the dining table one might see a silver epergne in Renaissance style which could also serve as a candelabrum. Those were the days when John Jelliff of Newark was producing chairs in Renaissance style with medallions enclosing heads in high relief and carved tassels suspended from the top rails.

Somewhere about the house, perhaps in the parlor, there would be wreaths or landscapes made of hair and encased in walnut frames, reminders of an earlier generation. Poetry and doggerel have long been witness to the sentimental value attached to a loved one's hair.

Take from my brow this
flowing tress—
It is thy own pet curl —
And lay it in its loneliness,
Within yon box of pearl.

These touching lines are from a long poem printed in *Peterson's Magazine,* a rival of the famous *Godey's Lady's Book,* in 1850. Hair at this time was in its glory, both on the head and off. Its value lay in its lasting quality; it alone, of all the human body, was imperishable enough to be cherished as a memento of a loved one. Whether kept in a "box of pearl" or fashioned into jewelry and other knick-knacks—such as a riding whip or scent bottle—it was decidedly the fashion. Hair from the heads of blondes and brunettes, carefully fash-

ioned into tiny flowers and leaves and twisted on stems of hair into wreaths a foot in diameter, may still be seen on a wall occasionally. Another type is the scene from nature, so to speak, with tree, house, monument, and the family coat of arms, worked in hair contributed by members of a family. The Newark Museum has one such example and on the back the artist has indicated his sources as follows:

The Tree is the Father's Hair
The Center Curls the Mother's Hair
The Monument on the right Hand Adelaide's
The Monument on the left Hand Alfred's
The Corner Curl on the left Milton's
The Corner Curl on the right Oratio's
The Ballance are Mixtures
Made by E. Larwill their Husband and Father

A. D. 1848

Whether or not Mr. Larwill intended it, his picture is reminiscent of those "mourning pieces," embroidered with silk floss on silk or satin, which showed a monument surmounted by an urn and overhung with weeping willow branches. In Colonial days and the early years of the 19th century these embroidered pictures supplied a real need for wall decoration. The Museum has several examples, the finest being those embroidered by Sophia Pope at the age of 14 (see illustration), and by Mary P. Paul of Philadelphia in the late 18th century. The latter is done in colored floss and chenille on a painted silk ground. The cottage in the background has a roof of actual straw.

But to return to "Hair Work," *Peterson's Magazine* for November, 1850, published the first of a series of articles on the subject, written by "Mlle Dufour." The introductory paragraph of the first article gives a clue to the origin of the practice, as well as convincing (?) arguments for taking up the work.

"Of the various employments for the fingers suitable for our fair countrywomen, none is, perhaps, more interesting than that which we are about to describe, viz., Hair Work, a recent importation from Germany, where it is very fashionable. Hitherto almost exclusively confined to professed manufacturers of hair trinkets, this work might become a drawing-room occupation as elegant and as free from all objections of litter, dirt, or unpleasant smells as the much praised knitting, netting and crochet can be. A small handkerchief will at any time cover the apparatus and materials in use. By acquiring a knowledge of this art, ladies will be themselves enabled to manufacture the hair of beloved friends and relatives into bracelets, chains, rings, earrings and devices, and thus ensure that they do actually wear the memento they prize, and not a fabric substituted for it, as we fear has sometimes been the case."

By 1854 the wearing of hair jewelry was unquestionably the style. *Godey's Lady's Book*, whose "lady editress" acted as a shopping bureau for out-of-town subscribers, announced that "we have received very many complimentary letters about the various pins, necklaces, etc. that we have had made up to order. Anyone having hair of a relative can have it made up into a most beautiful ornament, either

DAVID AND THE BEARS. Worsted embroidery on a painted silk ground done by Sophia Pope

Vase of Feather Flowers at the Newark Museum. (Photograph courtesy of the Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey.)

pin, necklace or bracelet." The prices quoted are as follows:

Breast pins, from $4 to $12
Bracelets, from $3 to $15
Ear-rings, from $4.50 to $10
Fob-chains, from $6 to $12

To us moderns it all sounds rather dreadful, but Great-aunt Eliza may have viewed such handiwork with a sigh of satisfaction, "Oh, isn't it pretty!"

That women were not alone in this remarkable pursuit was evident from a statement of Mlle. Dufour's in *Peterson's Magazine*. She remarks on the two varieties of tables used, — the first or "ladies table," and the second, twelve to fourteen inches higher, employed by "the opposite sex," who preferred to stand at their work. Skillful indeed was the workmanship that went into some of the pieces now lying forgotten in attic or bureau drawer. No longer are they surrounded by a halo of sentiment when

Gentle fingers softly laid
The little trembling curl
Back from the cold and
pulseless heart
Within the box of pearl.

Instead, they are regarded as curiosities, along with so much else that dates from the Victorian era.

How changed is our world of the 20th century! Who would think of putting antimacassars on the parlor furniture or wearing a dainty lace cap when receiving guests? Yet the mistress of an early Victorian parlor would not have been seen there without her cap for no matron left her head uncovered. In 1844, fashion announced, "No unmarried lady should wear a morning cap; it is the mark, the badge, if we may so call it, of the young matron. And if the wife cares as much for her husband's admiration after marriage as before it, she will never dispense with this tasteful, coquettish appendage to a morning toilette." By 1857 we find this bit of sentiment, "Young married ladies need not wear caps until they have acquired the endearing name of 'Mother'." So, if your great-grandmother's portrait shows her wearing a lace cap you will understand why. As said before, they were all of a piece — the house, its furnishings and its inmates.

We view such things with a cold and calculating eye, but as Charles Viret suggests in *And So's Your Antimacassar,* published 1951,

If frills were great-aunt
Sophie's joy,
Gewgaws and whatnots
Grandpa's passions;
How shall we rate
In two thousand eight
When Johnny views our
abstract fashions?

OF BOOKS AND THINGS

In this department are combined short articles based on holdings of the Society's library, book reviews, and listings of new publications about New Jersey.

Dr. William H. Gaines, Jr., recently appointed librarian of the Society, assumes chief responsibility for these pages with the current issue. Dr. William B. Catton, son of the well-known historian, Bruce Catton, is a member of the Princeton University Faculty in the Department of History.

FROM THE LIBRARY

WILLIAM H. GAINES, JR.

Although there is a Hotel Winfield Scott in Elizabeth, many persons are not aware that the distinguished American soldier for whom it was named was long a resident of the Union county metropolis. Scott, who was born in Virginia in 1786, spent his youth and early manhood in the Old Dominion, but his connection with New Jersey began soon after his marriage in 1817 to Maria De Hart Mayo of Richmond. She was the daughter of a prominent merchant of the Virginia capital and also the granddaughter of John De Hart, a merchant of Elizabethtown. John Mayo was the owner of a mansion in the New Jersey city which he called "Hampton Place," where the Mayos had been accustomed to spend part of every summer. There the newly-married couple repaired for their honeymoon. From that time until 1851, when the Scotts moved permanently to Washington, they lived at Hampton Place, although the husband was frequently absent for long periods, as his military duties took him on campaigns in Florida and Mexico, on tours of inspection to various frontier posts, and on assignments at different army headquarters throughout the nation.[1]

It is therefore not unfitting that letters and other papers of the hero of Chippewa should be preserved in the Society's library. The largest group of Scott manuscripts in our possession was received in 1942 from Miss Alice R. Allan of Montclair. These papers consist mainly of letters written by Scott between 1839 and 1848 to Charles E. Davies, professor of mathematics at the United States Military Academy, and are concerned mostly with military and political subjects.[2] Other Scott items in our collection reflect more closely his connection with his "adopted state" and with this Society.

From the archives of our organization, for example, comes a note from the General to William A. Whitehead, corresponding secretary of the Society, just before the outbreak of the Mexican War, a conflict in which Scott was to win his brightest laurels as a commander.

Sir: Washington, Feb. 24, 1846.

Accident has prevented an earlier acknowledgment of the honour conferred on me by the *New Jersey Historical Society* in electing me one of its resident members,[3] as a citizen of Elizabethtown. A copy of the By-laws of the Society was received with the notice of the election.

I appreciate very highly, the honour conferred upon me by the Historical Society of my adopted State, & should leisure ever permit, hope to contribute something, however humble, to its valuable labours, to mark my sense of obligation & duty.

I remain, Sir, Very respectfully, Yr. most Obt. Servant,

Winfield Scott.

Other obligations and duties arose, however, and long prevented Scott from enjoying leisure enough to "contribute something." Although he returned in triumph from the City of Mexico in the spring of 1848 (his fellow citizens passed resolutions of pride, declaring that they were "happy to claim an honored townsman"),[4] his duties as General-in-Chief and his unsuccessful bid for the Whig party's nomination in the Presidential campaign of 1848 seem to have kept him too well occupied.

Another letter concerning Scott's connection with the Society was given to us in 1952 by Mr. Van Dyck MacBride of Newark. It was written more than four years after the first and was addressed to James Ross of Newark.

New York, May 16, 1850.

Dear Sir:

I have the pleasure to acknowledge your acquittance,[5] as the Treasurer of the *New Jersey Historical Society* of my regular contribution to that body—of which I have the honour to be a member. With great respect, yrs. truly,

Winfield Scott.

On the same day that he wrote this letter the General crossed the Hudson in time to join his fellow members at the City Hotel in Newark. The occasion was the Society's dinner meeting,[6] and Scott sat at the right hand of the organization's president, Joseph C. Hornblower. Eventually there came a time when, "the usual viands having been disposed of," a series of toasts began. Judge William A. Duer proposed: "The Army and Navy of the United States," and Scott arose to make the response, his action being "received with hearty and prolonged marks of welcome." He spoke, he said, "as the senior officer of one of the branches of our national defense," and his brief address was largely a tribute to the army, "a part and parcel of our common country itself, and devoted to all her best interests, her people and her

institutions." But he concluded in a manner calculated to arouse the enthusiasm of his listeners, for he ended by proposing a toast of his own: "In all future time may our Representatives and Officers imitate those of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War."

[1]Charles Winslow Elliott, *Winfield Scott, the Soldier and the Man* (New York, 1937), pp. 213-215, 605.

[2]Fred Shelley, *A Guide to the Manuscripts Collection of the New Jersey Historical Society* (Newark, 1957), entry no. 40.

[3]Scott was elected on January 15, 1846 (*Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society,* first series, I [1845-6], 126).

[4]Elliott, *op. cit.,* pp. 586-587.

[5]The word means "receipt in full."

[6]*Proceedings,* first series, V (1850-1), 6-7.

REVIEWS

Jefferson Davis: Confederate President. By Hudson Strode. (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1959. xvii, 516 pages.)

This second volume of Professor Strode's monumental biography of Jefferson Davis covers the period from early 1861, when the President of the new Confederacy began organizing his government, down to the gray winter of 1863-1864, when the ultimate, tragic end of the "experiment in rebellion" had become clearly visible. Davis was still confident of victory on New Year's Day in 1864, but weariness was growing and hope wearing thin among his people. Eighteen sixty-three was the year of Vicksburg and Gettysburg and Missionary Ridge; next spring would see Grant begin his bloody crabwise movement toward Richmond while Sherman marshaled his forces in northwest Georgia for the march to Atlanta and the sea. When Mr. Strode brings his volume to a close the high noon of the Confederacy is well past, its heroism and its bright vision of triumph darkened by the lengthening shadows of defeat.

In a briskly moving, competently written narrative, Strode follows his protagonist through the first thirty-three months of war. "Though I describe the times in which Jefferson Davis lived," he writes, "the emphasis is on the man himself, what he sees, thinks, and feels, while history is occurring." The job is effectively done. Although the campaigns, battles, and shifting fortunes of war that form the grim backdrop for the Southern cause are sharply etched, this is fundamentally Jefferson Davis's story. We watch his hopes and anxieties ebb and flow with the arrival of telegrams and dispatches, listen to the repeated conferences with generals and advisers, and share his distraction with the obstructive clamor raised by a gathering host of enemies at home. The volume is based upon a thorough examination of the various printed and private collections of Davis material, plus a standard variety of other sources and pertinent secondary works.

What emerges, in this study, is the record of a gifted leader who

accepted an unsought-for office in early 1861, created a government out of whole cloth in time to wage a war that he foresaw but hoped to avoid, and mobilized the resources and energies of a rural and highly individualistic people for an effort that remains the Confederacy's highest monument. Strode describes a remarkable figure, clearly the ablest and most dedicated of the Southern political leaders. Enemies saw only the aloof dignity that was a proud, sensitive man's sole defense against denunciation and invective; others found instead a warmly likeable human being, possessed of wit and great personal charm, tact and courage and balanced judgment. Davis, like his counterpart in the White House north of the Potomac, felt keenly the wartime anguish of his people and walked sleeplessly through the long nights of uncertainty and despair. The author does note faults. He admits that his subject "lacked a certain political fluidity" and could not, as Davis himself put it, "let people alone who snap at me." But in Strode's opinion the very flaws are heroic.

For all its merit, this is a strangely annoying volume, overly partisan in tone and sadly lacking in any critical analysis of the major issues. Strode states frankly that he is writing from the Southern viewpoint. He echoes the harsh judgment of Lincoln's Sumter policy set forth by John Tilley, Charles W. Ramsdell, and Ellis M. Coulter, even quoting Coulter's opinion that Lincoln at Sumter was either "a marplot and bungler or a cunning villain and provocateur" — a verdict based upon the questionable assumption that the North was totally unjustified, constitutionally or morally, in trying to prevent secession.

From this point onward the author's brief sketches of the North are hostile, unsympathetic, and one-sided. His full acceptance of the Confederate viewpoint results in gross distortion. One gets the impression that the Union war effort was backed only by fanatical abolitionists determined to upset the Southern racial balance and by selfish economic groups bent on continuing their exploitation of the South, while decent and thoughtful Northern citizens were unwilling to support this unjust war and became increasingly appalled at the excesses and tyranny of the Lincoln administration. Quotes are skillfully employed to contrast Southern devotion with Northern confusion, Southern chivalry with Northern brutality. All the familiar atrocity stories are painstakingly set forth, from "Beast" Butler through Grant and Sherman to the men who looted plantations. The New York draft riots and other evidences of Northern unrest are described with relish. No attempt is ever made to portray the nobler side of the Union cause, which also called forth its full measure of devotion.

In an incredibly naive reading of the evidence, Strode insists upon making state rights rather than slavery the real point for which Southerners were contending. Pure

expediency, he adds, underlay all of Lincoln's pronouncements on slavery during the war, and material is cited to show Northern hostility toward the Negro (which is essentially true) and Lincoln's lack of concern for him (which is essentially false). In sharply contrasting Davis's sympathetic treatment of his slaves with the rough handling that loyal Southern Negroes received from "an incredible new kind of 'white folks'" when the Northern armies arrived, Strode is implicitly endorsing the familiar Southern view that slavery was perhaps the best solution to the race problem, after all. Davis, of course, was no more typical of the peculiar institution than Simon Legree, and Lincoln's views of race and slavery were far more complex than Strode has indicated. An author who describes the New York draft riots and omits the Gettysburg address is doing history an injustice, and Jefferson Davis's claims to greatness require neither a harsh denunciation of the North nor a careful manipulation of the evidence pertaining to slavery.

Abraham Lincoln, limned in passing as unscrupulous, expedient, and generally confused, fares no worse than the many Southern leaders who attacked or opposed President Davis. Consistently praising or defending the presidential favorites — Bragg, Pemberton, Sidney Johnston, Northrop — the author dismisses Davis's numerous enemies as "various malcontents, disappointed office seekers, and disgruntled army officers [who] joined the inimical editors and the Joseph Johnston clique in a campaign of criticism of the President." Correctly recognizing that much of this opposition was partisan, malicious, and wrongheaded, Strode vigorously belabors every critic. Henry S. Foote is excoriated and Stephens, Toombs, and Beauregard are sharply censured, but the author's prime target is Joseph E. Johnston, whose quarrels with Davis form a recurring leitmotif in Confederate annals. Strode fails to demonstrate, however, that Davis was uniformly right in this conflict, especially in the tangled web of misunderstandings that surrounded the Vicksburg campaign. Certainly Joe Johnston's supporters will object to Strode's version, which leaves many questions unanswered and ignores much of the evidence in Johnston's favor. At Shiloh, rejecting the judgment of T. Harry Williams, the author lauds Sidney Johnston, whom Davis worshiped, and condemns Beauregard. In keeping footnotes to a minimum and citing too few of his sources with precision, Strode seldom lays the historic Southern quarrels to rest, and the reader is apt to grow both tired and suspicious of the constant assertions that Davis and his supporters were always in the right.

More seriously, the book attempts no real analysis of certain major problems. Neither the effectiveness nor the exact nature of Davis's leadership is always clear. The detailed workings of Confederate administration are ignored, and the account of civil-military relations

suggests that the President was something less than a brilliant commander-in-chief. Strode dismisses the unfortunate concept of the dispersed defensive by saying, rather apologetically, that Davis never felt he could abandon it. Although frequently mentioned in passing, the basic influence of state rights upon the Confederate war effort is never adequately treated. In merely echoing Davis's recurrent distress at the repeated shortages of manpower and arms, the author implies that the North's triumph was due to weight of numbers and superior equipment; the South was fighting the big battalions. But as Frank Owsley suggests, the South's fatal shortages were actually induced by the crippling effect of state sovereignty. In short, an extensive, critical evaluation of Southern leadership would strengthen the book without really detracting from the heroic human portrait.

It is quite possible, of course, that analytic treatment will be forthcoming in the third and final volume. Nevertheless, Strode's present account is needlessly partisan and dangerously uncritical. Open-minded readers will be grateful to him for revealing a flesh-and-blood Davis with warmly human qualities, and should agree that the Confederate President deserves a secure place on the roster of America's great. Many will feel, however, that with his felicity of style and sympathetic understanding the author could have rescued Davis's reputation without so egregiously stacking the deck in his favor. The Civil War no longer needs this sort of study, and Strode badly weakens his case by presenting it in such a manner. — William B. Catton.

Vanishing Crafts and Their Craftsmen. By Rollin C. Steinmetz and Charles S. Rice. (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1959. 160 pages.)

Any one who has enjoyed visiting outdoor museums, such as Colonial Williamsburg, Old Sturbridge Village, The Farmer's Museum at Cooperstown and the like, would appreciate the contents of this little book.

Each of the 14 chapters is a different true story about a certain tradesman and his so-called "lost art". To name a few, one learns the ways and habits of a blacksmith, candymaker, potter, glassmaker. As the authors explain in the preface, only a sample of the many vanishing crafts of America is described here, as time and space permitted.

Mr. Steinmetz's words read like a novel, light and simple. You feel that you are interviewing these skilled laborers of by-gone occupations. Mr. Rice's candid photographs illustrate the book profusely —over 70 of them, an average of almost one photo for every two pages.

Each one of the rare artisans described here would make an excellent contestant for the popular television panel show, "What's My Line?" My only regret was that the book contained no index, which would indeed increase its already high value.—H. W. W.

NEW JERSEY IN PRINT

WILLIAM H. GAINES, JR.

With this issue the *Proceedings* revives a feature that has been absent from its pages for more than a year. During that time the literature on the Garden State has continued to appear in gratifying volume, and the resultant backlog of worthwhile material is a formidable one. Thus, this effort to regain lost ground must take the form of a serial rather than that of a single all-inclusive list.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

Allaire's Lost Empire: A Story of the Forges and Furnaces of the Manasquan. By James S. Brown. (Freehold: Transcript Printing House, 1958. viii, 88 pages.) This account of James P. Allaire, Monmouth county ironmaster, and his long-defunct enterprise will be of interest to those who enjoyed such previous works on this early New Jersey industrial history as Arthur D. Pierce's *Iron in the Pines* and Charles S. Boyer's *Early Forges and Furnaces in New Jersey.* The site of Allaire's "empire" is now a State Park.

The American Clyde: A History of Iron and Steel Shipbuilding on the Delaware from 1840 to World War I. By David B. Tyler. (University of Delaware Press, 1958. xi, 132 pages.) Although primarily concerned with yards at Wilmington and Philadelphia, this well-documented work contains some material on shipbuilding activity at Camden, Elizabethport, and other New Jersey points. There are also comments on Jerseymen engaged in the industry during the period covered.

The Bogart Family: Tunis Gysbert Bogaert and his Descendants. By John Albert Bogart. (Scranton, Pa., privately printed by the author, 1959. viii, 280 pages.) Contains some notes on the New Jersey branch of a predominantly New York family.

Centennial Celebration of St. Joseph's Parish, Newark, New Jersey. (Newark?, 1959? Unpaged.) Includes a history of the parish by the Rev. William Keller.

The Colgate Story. By Shields T. Hardin. (New York: Vantage Press, 1959. 214 pages.) A narrative of the descendants of Robert Colgate, whose son William became prominent as a pioneer soap manufacturer and as a philantrophist. The family firm founded by William is now merged with Palmolive-Peet, and has long been centered in New Jersey.

Colonel Erkuries Beatty, 1759-1823: Pennsylvania Revolutionary Soldier, New Jersey Judge, Senator, Farmer and Prominent Citizen of Princeton. By Harry B. Weiss and Grace M. Ziegler. (Trenton, The Past Times Press, 1958. vi, 79 pages.) A brief biography based on original sources.

Early Tanning and Currying in New Jersey. By Harry B. Weiss and Grace M. Weiss. (Trenton: New Jersey Agricultural Society, 1959. 74 pages.) The sixth in a

series dealing with rural industries of old New Jersey. [Readers will note that Dr. Weiss and his collaborator of long standing have formed an even closer partnership.]

History of Chatham, New Jersey. By Ambrose Ely Vanderpoel. (Chatham: Chatham Historical Society, 1959. xxix, 445 pages.) A republication, with some new material added, of the now rare 1921 edition.

History of Mount Holly. By Henry C. Shinn. (Mount Holly: Mount Holly Herald, 1957. 182 pages.)

History of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, 1651-1958. By William C. McGinnis. (Perth Amboy: American Publishing Company, Inc., 1958. 153 pages.) The author has previously written a history of the schools of this community (1957), as well as accounts of other Perth Amboy institutions.

History of the Woolever Family, 1650-1958. By Raymond G. Woolever. (St. Paul, Minn., 1958, mimeographed. 88 pages.) Contains genealogical data (and a family tree) on the New Jersey branch.

Jersey's Story. By Margaret O'Connell. (Chicago: Lyons and Carnahan, 1958. 192 pages.) A brief general account, suitable for use in schools. The useful appendix contains lists of important dates, famous "firsts," and other capsuled data.

Juet's Journal: The Voyage of the Half-Moon from 4 April to 7 November 1609. Edited by Robert M. Lunny, with an introduction by John T. Cunningham. (New Jersey Historical Society, 1959. xi, 37 pages.) Issued as Volume XII of the Society's *Collections,* this volume was published in connection with the celebration last spring of the 350th anniversary of the visit Henry Hudson made to New Jersey and New York waters.

A Municipal History of the Borough of Sayreville, 1920-1958. By Joseph T. Karcher. (Boston: Meador Publishing Company, 1958. 165 pages.) A continuation of the same author's history of this community, the previous volume of which covered the years 1876 to 1920.

The New Jersey Shore. By John Cunningham. (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1958. 272 pages.) This lively and perceptive volume accentuates atmosphere rather than history, but there is interesting material on the background of various Shore points. Like preceding works on the state by the author, it is based on articles originally prepared for the Newark *News.*

Newark, City of Surprises: Its Americana, River and Down Neck. By Wynn Esselborn. (Montclair: Montclair Business Services, 1958. 252 pages.)

Prologue to Revolution: Sources and Documents on the Stamp Act Crisis, 1764-1766. Edited by Edmund S. Morgan. (Chapel Hill, N. C., published by the University of North Carolina Press for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Va., 1959. viii, 163

pages.) This compendium includes not only the New Jersey Resolves against the Stamp Act of December 18, 1765, but the less-known declaration of February 25, 1766, by the Sons of Liberty of New Brunswick, wherein these Jerseymen declared their determination to defend their "indubitable rights." The editor is also the author of a well-received history of the Stamp Act Crisis and its various manifestations.

The Revolutionary Saltworks of the New Jersey Coast. By Harry B. Weiss and Grace M. Weiss. (Trenton: The Past Times Press, 1959. vi, 79 pages.)

Roseland: Fiftieth Anniversary, 1908-1958: Historical Album. (Roseland: Fiftieth Anniversary Committee of the Borough of Roseland, 1958. 40 pages.) Profusely illustrated.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newark, New Jersey. The One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Souvenir Booklet. (Newark?, 1959. 19 pages.)

Some Hunterdon Place Names: Historical Sketches about Communities and Localities in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. By Hubert G. Schmidt. (Flemington: D. H. Moreau, 1959. 32 pages.) Herein may be found explanations of such places (some of them now known—for obvious reasons—by other names) as Amwell, Bedbug Point, Califon (short for California,) Cushetunk, Oldwick, Quequacommissicong, Ringoes, Sodom, and Whiskey Lane.

A Survey: Fifty Years of the Newark Museum. (Newark, 1959. 135 pages).

We the People: The Economic Origins of the Constitution. By Forrest McDonald. (Chicago: Published by the University of Chicago Press for the American History Research Center, Madison, Wis., 1958. x, 436 pages.) A detailed critique of Charles A. Beard's famous and controversial *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution* which appeared in 1913. Readers of the *Proceedings* will be particularly interested in the author's treatment of the various New Jersey delegates to the Philadelphia convention and in his analysis of the State's ratification of our fundamental law.

William Opie of Somerset County, New Jersey, and Some of his Descendants, with other Families Mentioned. Compiled by Esther Opie Van Ness, with John Eldridge. (Privately printed, 1958. 299 pages.)

With Walt Whitman in Camden, January 21-April 7, 1889. By Horace L. Traubel, edited by Sculley Bradley. (Carbondale, Ill.: University of Southern Illinois Press, 1959. xviii, 528 pages.) As a resident of Camden, Traubel held almost daily conversations with the ailing poet during the latter's residence there and kept a detailed diary record of those interchanges. This is the fourth volume of Traubel's record to appear in print, the three previous ones having been published between 1906 and 1914.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1959

The one hundred fourteenth annual meeting of the New Jersey Historical Society was held at the building of the Society, 230 Broadway, Newark, New Jersey, at 12 noon on Wednesday, October 28, 1959. Harry O. H. Frelinghuysen, president of the Society, presided, and Robert M. Lunny, director, acting as secretary of the meeting, kept the minutes. The Rev. Carl Heimstra, Associate Minister of the North Reformed Dutch Church, delivered the invocation.

The calling of the roll was waived, and the secretary reported that a quorum was present. The minutes of the annual meeting of 1958, published in the *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society,* Volume LXXVII, Number I, January 1959, were approved without reading.

The president announced that the first order of business was the election of trustees for a three-year term. He reported with regret the resignation of Lloyd M. Felmly from the Board. A Nominating Committee was appointed composed of the Honorable John O. Bigelow, chairman, Richard V. Lindabury and Dr. Richard P. McCormick. While the Nominating Committee met, the report of the Board of Trustees was read by the president.

The chairman of the Nominating Committee submitted the report, nominating Charles B. Bradley, Horace K. Corbin, Frederick Frelinghuysen, Harry O. H. Frelinghuysen, Mrs. Joseph W. Greene, Frederick H. Groel, Mrs. Richard Hartshorne, Donald B. Kipp, the Honorable James F. Murray, Jr. and Donald A. Sinclair to be re-elected as members of the class of 1962, to serve for a period of three years or until their successors shall be elected and qualified. The chairman of the Committee then nominated the following to fill existing vacancies on the Board of Trustees: Dr. Samuel Berg of Newark to the class of 1961 and Mrs. Louis B. Warren of Bernardsville to the class of 1962. The nominations were seconded. It was moved, seconded and voted that the secretary cast a ballot unanimously electing the foregoing. Accordingly the nominees were proclaimed elected. The president thanked the Nominating Committee.

The following additional reports were submitted: the Treasurer's by the secretary in the absence of Frederick Frelinghuysen; Finance Com-

mittee by the secretary in the absence of Frederick H. Groel, chairman; Membership Committee by the Honorable John O. Bigelow, chairman; House Committee by the secretary in the absence of Dominic A. Cavicchia, chairman; Woman's Branch by Mrs. Frederick Frelinghuysen, president; Museum Committee by Mrs. Frederick Frelinghuysen, chairman; Library Committee by Richard V. Lindabury, chairman; Education Committee by John T. Cunningham, chairman; and a brief of the report of the corresponding secretary, Mrs. Joseph W. Greene. The final report was that of the Editorial Committee by Donald A. Sinclair, chairman.

Donald B. Kipp introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

Adopted at the Annual Meeting of

THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wednesday, October 28, 1959

Wilson C. Ely, whose recent death has saddened all members of The New Jersey Historical Society who knew him, first became a member of this Society in 1912. He subsequently was elected a life member, a patron and a trustee.

In 1895 he became affiliated with his father in the architectural firm of John H. and Wilson C. Ely, thus beginning a partnership which produced the designs of some of the finest structures in the State and the city of Newark. Not least among these is the present building of the Society.

In the years since its completion in 1931, the headquarters of the Society have benefited from the continuing interest Wilson C. Ely had in this fine building. Always willing to advise, he and his firm were consulted often and always gave so generously of their counsel to the Society. He will be missed as a loyal member who has left us his greatest contribution in our headquarters.

Therefore, be it resolved that this memorial tribute be spread on the minutes and a copy sent with our sympathy to the family of Mr. Ely.

Miss Ruth Trask Farrow introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

Adopted at the Annual Meeting of

THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wednesday, October 28, 1959

Whereas Addison Dennis was Custodian of this Society from September 1952 to May 1959,

Whereas he faithfully performed his duties with the assistance of his wife until his retirement,

Therefore, be it resolved that this Society records its appreciation for the work of Mr. and Mrs. Addison Dennis and that a copy of this resolution be sent to them.

Dr. Richard P. McCormick introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

Adopted at the Annual Meeting of
THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Wednesday, October 28, 1959

Whereas Donald A. Sinclair, a trustee of this Society, served from January 1952 to September 1959 as editor of the *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*, and

Whereas during his tenure as editor *the Proceedings* attained a level of excellence that reflected great distinction on himself and the Society, and

Whereas his retirement as editor because of the pressure of other obligations has been acquiesced in by the Board of Trustees with regret,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Society at this, its one hundred fourteenth annual meeting, formally records its deep sense of gratitude to Donald A. Sinclair for the extraordinary contribution that he has made as editor of the *Proceedings*, and that a copy of this resolution be suitably engrossed and presented to Donald A. Sinclair in evidence of the appreciation that this Society has for his years of loyal service.

Each of the three resolutions carried unanimously. The president presented to Mr. Sinclair from the Society bound and specially inscribed copies of the volumes of the *Proceedings* which he edited.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 P.M. Following a luncheon many of the members stayed to hear the first two talks in the series "The Tradition of the American Home" on the general topic of the history of the appreciation of American antiquities.

ROBERT M. LUNNY, *Director.*

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AT THE close of each fiscal year, when the chairmen of the several Trustees' committees settle down to the task of writing their reports, there is an often-voiced wish that the Annual Report be shortened and its persistent repetitions be avoided. By and large, all activities of the Society are carried on by the staff working within the organizational framework of the committees, and this work is reported upon by the committee chairmen. I shall not, therefore, mention here what is being done so ably under the committee system. There are, however, one or two exceptions of Society activity which have never been made a part of the work of any Trustees' committee, and to these activities I invite your attention now.

At the beginning of the last fiscal year the *New Jersey Messenger*, a modest newsletter, appeared to bring word to you of forthcoming events on the Society calendar, to set forth bits and pieces of curious or amusing New Jersey history and to attract those who are not yet members of the Society to join. In three issues of the autumn, winter, and spring, all our special events of last season were publicized by this little brother of the *Proceedings*, which was reduced slightly in size to make room in the budget for the *Messenger*. Happily, the reception of this youngster has

been warm and cordial, and he has been making friends for the Society among individuals and the local societies of the state.

The New Jersey Dinner in May is now a regular event and one of the most delightful in the Society calendar. This year the chairman who gave so generously of his time, energy and ideas to make the dinner a great success was Kenneth Chorley of Hopewell. The dinner celebrated the 350th anniversary of the voyage of Henry Hudson's exploration of the river which now bears his name. The New Jersey Historical Society Award was presented to Frank Townsend for a distinguished contribution to the history of New Jersey as the editor of *Tel-news* of the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company and John T. Cunningham was elected a Fellow of the Society. The Netherlands Ambassador was replaced at the last minute as guest speaker. In his place the Minister Plenipotentiary of the Netherlands Embassy, Mr. Emil Schiff, attended and delivered the principal address of the evening, which will be printed in the October issue of the *Proceedings*. As they had done at the two previous dinners, Governor and Mrs. Meyner entertained the guests at Morven before the dinner and as always were most gracious hosts. Those who attended the dinner, which was Dutch from the invitations through the hors d'oeuvres to the Curacao, enjoyed it; and they said it very expressively from the heart of their pocketbooks.

At the dinner, copies of the limited edition of *Juet's Journal* were given to all the guests. This is an account, long out of print, of the famous third voyage of Henry Hudson in the *Half Moon*, when Hudson not only sailed up his river but also saw the sights along the Jersey shore from Delaware Bay to Sandy Hook. It is a book that is selling most successfully in both the de luxe edition and the paper bound one. School libraries throughout New Jersey and in the counties of the Hudson valley of New York state have shown special interest. This handsome book was made possible through the revolving publication fund set up by one of our trustees, Edward J. Grassman, and contains an introduction by another trustee, John T. Cunningham.

Less than two weeks after the New Jersey Dinner, jointly with the Cape May Historical and Genealogical Society we held our Ninth Annual New Jersey Historical Conference and Preservation Forum. Those of us, 225 strong, who made the trip to Cape May, will remember the event for numerous reasons. This was the first of our conferences to last over a two-day period, it was also the first in which the National Trust for Historic Preservation took part. No more interesting town could be found for the conference than Cape May. We heard news of the preservation story on the national, the state and the local level, including an account of the recently organized New Jersey Committee for Historic Sites Evaluation. There was enthusiastic interest in the lectures, the boat trip around Cape Island and the workshop conducted by the Museums Council of New Jersey.

This leads us to think for a moment of the variety of the activities of this Society of yours. In a dozen ways we are trying to catch the imagination of the men and women, the boys and girls of New Jersey. In this part of our report you have heard of four ways by which we as a Society seek to draw all of us closer in the bond of knowing that a greater knowledge and appreciation of the history of New Jersey can give us a greater sense of belonging one to another in a state we all know as home. If each of us as a member can develop an enthusiasm for the importance that New Jersey's past plays in our state's future there will be no limit to the successful activity of this organization, our New Jersey Historical Society.

HARRY O. H. FRELINGHUYSEN, *President*

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

I SUBMIT herewith the Society's Balance Sheet as of the end of, and the Operating Statement for, the fiscal year ended September 30, 1959, with comparative figures for the preceding fiscal year, from which I summarize in round figures.

Balance Sheet

The Unrestricted Fund had a net worth of $479,000—a decrease of $2,000, representing an $8,000 operating loss, offset in part by $800 of realized gains on investments and a $5,000 unrestricted bequest under the will of Edward W. Jackson.

The Endowment Fund had a net worth of $62,000—an increase of $500, representing two life memberships.

The Library and Museum Fund had a net worth of $5,200—an increase of $500, representing the excess of donations and proceeds of the sale of books and archives, $2,400, over the cost of acquisitions, $1,900.

The Publication Fund had a net worth of $3,500—a decrease of $1,600, representing the excess of the cost of publishing *Juet's Journal,* $3,300, over the proceeds of the sale of Guides to the Manuscript Collection and *Juet's Journal,* and bank interest.

The Woman's Branch Fund had a net worth of $2,900—the same as last year.

Operating Statement

Our Operating Income for the year was $34,600, a decrease of $5,000, representing principally a decrease in donations, some $4,000 having been donated for specal purposes in the preceding year.

Our Operating Expenses for the year were $42,600, a decrease of $4,900, resulting from a reduction in Payroll expense, and no Public Relations expense.

As a result, the Operating Loss for the year was $8,000, as compared with $7,800 last year.

FREDERICK FRELINGHUYSEN, *Treasurer*

BALANCE SHEET

As of September 30, 1959 and 1958

Unrestricted Fund

Assets

	1959		1958	
Cash in Banks	$ 3,875		$ 2,407	
Investments (book value)	64,588		68,259	
Library & Museum:				
Land & Building (cost)	358,039		358,039	
Equipment (cost)	52,293		52,293	
Contents (nominal)	1		1	
Total		$478,796		$480,999

Net Worth

Balance Oct. 1, 1958 & 1957	$480,999		$488,486	
Add:				
Realized Gain on Investments	783		1,306	
Bequest u/w Edw. W. Jackson	5,000		-o-	
	$486,782		$489,792	
Deduct:				
Transfer to L. & M Fund	$ -o-		$ 946	
Operating Loss	7,986	7,986	7,847	8,793
Balance Sept. 30, 1959 & 1958		$478,796		$480,999

Endowment Fund

Assets

Cash in Banks	$ 4,665		$ 4,165	
Investments (book value)	57,289		57,289	
Total		$ 61,954		$ 61,454

	1959		1958	
	Net Worth			
Balance Oct. 1, 1958 & 1957	$ 61,454		$ 61,370	
Add: Life Membership Dues	500		250	
	$ 61,954		$ 61,620	
Deduct: Realized Loss on Investments	-0-		166*	
Balance Oct. 1, 1959 & 1958		$ 61,954		$ 61,454

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM FUND

	Assets			
Cash in Bank		$ 5,222		$ 4,683
	Net Worth			
Balance Oct. 1, 1958 & 1957	$ 4,683		$ 3,158	
Add:				
Donations	750		936	
Transfer from Unr. Fund	-0-		946	
Interest	146		118	
Sale of Books & Archives	1,509		1,591	
	$ 7,088		$ 6,749	
Deduct:				
Cost of Acquisitions	1,866		2,066	
Balance Oct. 1, 1959 & 1958		$ 5,222		$ 4,683

PUBLICATION FUND

	Assets			
Cash in Bank		$ 3,454		$ 5,086
	Net Worth			
Balance Oct. 1, 1958 & 1957	$ 5,086		$ 5,061	
Add:				
Sales	1,566		517	
Interest	138		149	
	$ 6,790		$ 5,727	
Deduct:				
Cost of Publications	3,336		641	
Balance Oct. 1, 1959 & 1958		$ 3,454		$ 5,086

*Red.

Woman's Branch Fund

Assets

	1959	1958
Cash in Bank	$ 30	$ 30
Investments (book value)	2,830	2,830
Total	$ 2,860	$ 2,860

Net Worth

Balance Oct. 1, 1958 & 1957	$ 2,860	$ 2,860
Balance Oct. 1, 1959 & 1958	$ 2,860	$ 2,860

Operating Statement for the Years Ended September 30, 1959 and 1958

INCOME	1959	1958
Investments	$10,650	$10,874
Dues	10,123	10,144
Donations	3,174	8,436
Proceedings	4,179	4,210
Proceeds of annual New Jersey Historical Society Dinner	6,465	5,865
Miscellaneous	2	82
Total Receipts	$34,593	$39,611
EXPENSES		
Payroll, Pension and Payroll Taxes	$25,951	$28,835
Insurance	504	170
Administrative	2,764	2,716
Library and Museum	371	983
Exhibits and Education	230	233
Building Operations	4,980	4,349
Building Repairs	2,602	1,044
Proceedings	4,739	4,651
Audit and Investment	438	443
Public Relations	-0-	4,034
Total Expenses	$42,579	$47,458
Operating Deficit	$ 7,986	$ 7,847

Schedule of Investments

Book Values as of September 30, 1959

Unrestricted Fund

Shares	*Stocks*	
600	American Insurance Co., common	$ 9,875
150	American Telephone & Telegraph Co., capital	8,451
500	Continental Oil Co., common	3,860

374	Continental Insurance Co., common	7,100
100	Phillips Petroleum Co., common	3,670
300	The Southern Company, common	6,155
600	Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, common	6,859
816	Texaco Inc., common	10,508
200	Union Carbide Corp., common	8,110
Total Investments		$64,588

ENDOWMENT FUND

Bonds

$3,000	Atcheson, Topeka and Santa Fe 4's 1995	$ 2,744
3,500	Deere & Co., 4½'s, 8/1/83	3,509
5,000	Morris and Essex R.R. Co., 3½'s 2000	2,063
Shares	*Stocks*	
75	Allied Stores, 4% cumulative, preferred	7,500
400	Beneficial Finance Corp., common $1 par	6,774
50	Bethlehem Steel Corp., 7% preferred	7,293
25	Burlington Industries, 4% preferred	2,521
100	Oklahoma Natural Gas Co., 4¾% preferred	5,400
200	Southern California Edison So., original 5% cumulative participating preferred	9,200
100	Tennessee Gas Transmission Co., $5.10 preferred	10,285
Total Investments		$57,289

WOMAN'S BRANCH FUND

20	Bethlehem Steel Corp., 7% preferred	$ 2,830
Total Investments		$ 2,830

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

THE Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees submits the following report of investment changes for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1959.

Unrestricted Fund

During the year, 100 shares Phillips Petroleum Co. common stock were sold.

Endowment Fund

There were no transactions during the year in the Endowment Fund.

Woman's Branch Fund

There were no transactions during the year in the Woman's Branch Fund.

Donations for the year totaled $3,174, all of which amount was for the operating account of the Unrestricted Fund.

FREDERICK H. GROEL, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

At the close of the fiscal year the Society had a total of 1245 members as compared with 1270 members one year earlier. This appears to be a net loss of twenty-five but actually is accounted for by striking from the rolls those who had been made members by virtue of their attending the First New Jersey Dinner and who have not wished to continue. There were 148 new members during the year. We lost thirty by death and twenty-five by resignation.

The comparative figures are as follows:

	1958	*1959*
Associate	299	333
Contributing	554	552
Family	58	91
Sustaining	182	104
Supporting	4	6
Life	114	109
Patrons	11	10
Corresponding	5	5
Fellows of the Society	1	2
Institutional	42	33
	1270	1245

No appeal was made this year as in the previous one for members to increase their contribution in dues by transferring to a higher classification. It is not to be inferred that such changes would not be most welcome. A word to our new membership secretary, Mrs. Clifford Crawbuck, will take care of the matter instantly. Mrs. Crawbuck replaced Mrs. Stolte, who moved to California.

The best way to increase our membership is for our members to tell their friends how much they enjoy the Society programs and publications. Many of you are doing this, and the results are most gratifying. Mrs. Clement L. Griffin, Mrs. Alfred G. Parker and Mrs. Louis B. Warren have had great success. I urge you to follow their example.

John O. Bigelow, *Chairman*

REPORT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

The headquarters of the Society continue to require both extensive and expensive repairs. In the last report mention was made of the plan to replace all tubes in the main boiler, coat the fire escape with rust-resistant paint, repair the main roof and resurface the roof of the kitchen wing. These have all been done at an approximate cost of $1,900.

The portal and entrance of the building were painted and varnished. Best of all, the work room on the second floor, better known as the

Collier Room, received the very first coat of paint it has ever had; at the same time, the office of the librarian was also painted off-white, making these offices far more attractive working spaces than ever before. Thanks to a generous gift from Harry O. H. Frelinghuysen, a major improvement was made in installing modern museum lighting in the recently painted Little Gallery on the second floor. The Woman's Branch is responsible for supplying custom-made lighting fixtures for six exhibition cases, and an equally generous member, Mrs. Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, gave lighting for a seventh. All of them are in use on the main floor.

The former custodian, Addison Dennis, retired on May 31 and has been replaced by George Kroeschel, who has painted the custodian's apartment. The Society has replaced all its linoleum flooring.

The principal concern of this committee is the maintenance and safety of our building and its contents. Several incidents and discussions with the police confirm the fact that we are confronted with a new and serious problem. The withdrawal some months ago of the policeman who had been stationed here for so long does not make the solution of the problem any easier.

Dominic A. Cavicchia, *Chairman*

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Library Committee is happy to report that the Library of the Society, which at this time last year could be called the Sick Man of Broadway, has now developed into a sturdy, not to say bumptious, convalescent. It is true that the staff has suffered losses—the services of Miss Florence Holmes and Miss Anne Hubley in cataloguing and elsewhere will be missed—but since July first, when Dr. Gaines took up his post as Librarian, a transforming influence has made itself felt and better days are clearly in prospect.

Dr. Gaines comes to us with the dew of Jeffersonian idealism still upon him from his experiences with the Jefferson Papers at Princeton. With this valuable background of editorial work, with Mrs. Gerald May as Reference Librarian (Mrs. May did yeoman service as acting librarian before Dr. Gaines' arrival), and with two such helpful volunteers as Mss Helen Sims and Mrs. Joseph Greene at hand, Dr. Gaines should be able to look to the future with as much confidence as we feel when we look at him.

In the past year, despite the reduced staff that we had during eight of the twelve months, the numbers of persons using books and manuscripts in the Library rose to 1,518 (from 1,476 in the preceding year). Among the users, as in former years, have been a gratifying number of students and faculty members engaged in serious research, coming not only from the principal academic institutions of New Jersey but from others far outside the State. This year, for example, we have had visitors

from Catholic University, Harvard, Fordham, the University of Richmond, the University of California. Topics on which information has been sought in our collections of manuscripts, newspapers and other unique materials have been the Democratic-Republican party during Jefferson's administration, the abolition movement in the Middle Atlantic States in the generation following the Revolution, the activities of Richard Varick of New York. The National Historical Publication Commssion, which is planning a "documentary history of the ratification of the Constitution," consulted our materials, as did scholars working on Columbia University's Papers of John Jay.

During the year a total of 295 books were catalogued and 1,476 catalogue cards were prepared and filed, a figure attained through the devoted efforts of Miss Holmes and Miss Hubley.

We were fortunate enough to acquire several notable lots of manuscripts during the period. One of the most important is a large group of papers of the Blair and Vail families of Warren County, presented by Dr. John Insley Blair Vail of Blairstown; included among them are original travel diaries kept by John Insley Blair, who lived from 1802 to 1899, a mining and railroad magnate and philanthropist, together with ledgers and other records of his various enterprises. A large group of Parker family papers, dating from the late 17th to the early 20th century, was given by Mrs. Dudley F. Parker and forms a most welcome addition to the Parker papers presented to the Society in 1932 by the late Judge Charles W. Parker.

A smaller group, but one of especial interest as the centenary of the 1860's approaches, consists of muster rolls, supply records, and other papers kept by Capt. Elija Husted during the Civil War. They concern Company F, 24th New Jersey Volunteers—a regiment which was mustered in and out of general service at Beverly, Burlington County, and took part in the 1862 and 1863 campaigns in Northern Virginia. The Library's holdings in early business records were augmented by the acquisition of five manuscript volumes from the American Insurance Company of Newark, founded in 1846.

These and other gifts to the Library in the course of the year have been deeply appreciated. Lest it be thought that we did nothing for ourselves, I might say that we netted approximately $600 at the book sale held in connection with the Annual Meeting last year, and we hope for even greater success this year. What wealth another year will bring to the Library I would not dare guess, but with a new and energetic committee chairman, a brilliant new librarian and, as always, a generous body of members and friends, I trust that 230 Broadway will amass treasures just as fascinating, and twice as intellectual, as any hoarded in the caverns of the Arabian Nights.

RICHARD V. LINDABURY, *Chairman*

REPORT OF THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE

The year 1959 was notable for the Museum in several ways. I think first of our exhibitions, of which there were three major ones. Those of you who attended the last Annual Meeting will recall "Falls of the Passaic," a delightful exhibition of prints and paintings largely from the collection of Harold J. Dahl, a member of the Committee, and his business partner, George Connor. In the winter, the newly-lighted Little Gallery was opened with the handsome show "Snow Pieces of George Henry Durrie," all lent by Mrs. Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen and the late Mr. Frelinghuysen. Another loan exhibition, from the extensive collection of early American Naval prints of Irving S. Olds, opened in the spring. It was called "Naval Worthies of New Jersey."

These three shows are especially noteworthy because they are the first in the history of the Society for which catalogues have been published, and very handsome ones they are, each with its introduction and illustrations. They were published as separate pieces and were also included in the *Proceedings*. These exhibitions also are the first events in a group plan whereby we present the exhibition itself, a catalogue, a lecture at the opening and an article in the *Proceedings*—all on the same or related subjects. For example, Mr. Olds gave an illustrated lecture on the New Jersey prints in his collection, and Eugene S. Ferguson, the biographer of Truxtun, wrote on "Thomas Truxtun in New Jersey: Some Unanswered Questions."

Two semi-permanent exhibits were installed: "Life in New Jersey" in the Auditorium and "A Century and a Half of Styles" in the North Corridor. An exhibit of recently acquired photographs of Newark in the period 1860 to 1880 and a show of over one hundred mechanical and still banks lent by Thomas F. McGann were also shown during the year. Mrs. William A. Hughes lent her notable glass collection for showing at the time of the annual meeting of the Woman's Branch last spring.

Presentation was vastly improved with the painting and lighting of the Little Gallery on the second floor and the lighting of seven cases on the main floor. Books are constantly being acquired for our reference library. Sorting of museum materials is proceeding slowly when Bruce Farquhar can get in on Saturdays to work on it.

The total number of gifts of museum objects was seventy-seven, and we are exceedingly well pleased with the high quality of these greatly varied acquisitions. I wish to mention a few of them in particular. Mrs. George I. Finlay of Montclair added seven pieces of South Jersey glass, found at Alloway, to our collection. A set of Chippendale side chairs and a fine Sheraton sideboard, originally possessions of the Stout Family of Hopewell, were gifts of a descendant, C. Campbell Cole of Orange. Dr. Samuel Berg of Newark printed from glass plates over 600 photographs of East Orange scenes from 1890 to 1910. Another notable photographic addition

came from Dr. Alvin K. Aster of Madison, who gave 200 prints of historic buildings of the state. Two large landscapes by Andrew Melrose came from Mrs. Roy Walling of Stanfordville, New York, as a gift from the estate of Mrs. Alexander Henderson; one of them by this New Jersey artist is a scene of Becker Castle at North Bergen. A charming portrait of James Floy Bruen as a boy about 1850, by an unidentified artist, was a bequest of Mrs. Clement Bruen Rawling, late of Chardon, Ohio.

Several pieces of silver which belonged to the first president of the Society, Joseph C. Hornblower, were given by a descendant, Charles B. Bradley of Convent Station, also a past president. The silver tea service of William and Joanna Canfield Shugard, dating from about 1850, and their portraits were the bequests of Mrs. Clara Righter Drake, late of Chicago. Two pottery pitchers and a bowl, manufactured in Monmouth county by her ancestors, were donated by Mrs. Lucien B. Horton of York, Maine. Mrs. Hugh Pugh of Burlington donated a handsome matching set of pearl, coral and jade earrings, necklace and brooch of about 1850. By purchase we acquired a Chinese export punch bowl that belonged to the first mayor of Newark, William Halsey, bearing the initials of him and his wife.

To all those who contributed so generously to our Museum in various ways, I express the thanks of the Committee, and especially to Howard W. Wiseman for his splendid staff work.

Mrs. Frederick Frelinghuysen, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF THE WOMAN'S BRANCH

Mr. President, members and guests: First, I want to thank the members of the Board for their interest and work during the past year, all the officers for their faithful service, and especially Mrs. S. Whitney Landon and Mrs. Richard Hartshorne, who have taken over for me on several occasions when I was unable to be here because of illness.

The Board has been increased by a number of new, and may I say, younger members, whose new ideas and enthusiasm are stimulating to us all.

The main purpose of the Woman's Branch is defined in the By-Laws as assistance to and co-operation with the New Jersey Historical Society. We have lived up to this to the best of our ability, subscribing to various magazines, sending a boy to the Boy's State at Rutgers, presenting new lighting fixtures for six of the display cases, serving teas, and generally filling in when needed.

The outstanding work of the year has been the contest for younger school children, up to twelve years old, who were asked to compete by classes for a prize book, by the writing of an essay or the drawing of a poster, telling or showing what they remembered from their visit to the

museum. Twelve prizes were given in each category; Mrs. Landon and Mrs. Liddell were the judges. The results were an indication of the great value of the children's visits here, and also of the excellence of Mr. Howard Wiseman's talks to them. It was extraordinary to see how much their minds retained. All those connected with this and other educational projects, beginning with Mr. John Cunningham's educational committee, are much to be congratulated. Their efforts are proof of the importance of beginning early, and of the satisfaction to be found in living up to that part of the Society's charter which advises the dissemination of knowledge.

The same output of knowledge was and is behind the 4th Annual Series of Talks on the American Home which begins here today, which is sponsored by the Woman's Branch and Rutgers University. I would like to thank those of the State University extension who have helped us so much. It is an honor to be associated with them. As you have noticed we did not hold this series in the past fiscal year. We are trying a different time because of the elements, which in February and March have practically snowed us out on several occasions.

In closing I would like to thank our director Mr. Lunny for his ever valuable assistance to us, and to praise his brainchild, now a year old, the *New Jersey Messenger,* which I think is a great addition to our family.

Mrs. Frederick Frelinghuysen, *President.*

REPORT OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

A review of the past year's accomplishments can be summarized again in the publication of four issues and an index of the *Proceedings.* Behind these statistics lie several difficulties which have been somehow surmounted, the chief of them being the death of Mrs. Miriam O. Ball. Although Mrs. Ball wished her efforts to be anonymous it should be recorded now, that the indexes published annually to accompany the *Proceedings* had been prepared for several years by her as a voluntary contribution to the Society's work. Few people realize the amount of time and thought which may be expended in such an index and we must here acknowledge our lasting debt to Mrs. Ball for her fine work. Her untimely death left this year's index incomplete, and once again our friend and strong ally, Mrs. Maud H. Greene, came to the rescue. The service of Mrs. Greene in the Society's work has been well known for many years and we are thankful once again to have her beside us.

The Committee has given some thought to an expansion of the publication programme. Certain modifications of the *Proceedings* are contemplated. In addition, it is hoped to publish occasional books and pamphlets.

One book was published by the Society this year—*Juet's Journal.* Attractively designed and printed, the book has been widely commended.

Moreover, it has sold well for a publication of its kind: of the 1,000 copies in hard covers, less than half remain; of 2,500 copies in paper covers, several hundred are sold, with the remainder going at the rate of ten or fifteen per day. The costs, paid from the Society's revolving publication fund, will be recovered in a short time, it is believed.

The resignation of the present editor will become effective shortly. In fact, his successor is already at work, the October issue having been prepared entirely by him. The Society has been fortunate indeed in the matter of replacement. Mr. Richard V. Lindabury, who has volunteered to carry on the magazine, fortunately is qualified in every way to do so and to improve it in many ways. He has a scholarly education and disposition, as well as a varied professional experience in the field of journalism and editorial work.

DONALD A. SINCLAIR, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

THE Education Committee, formed this year to meet an obviously pressing need for New Jersey materials in the State's schools, has made modest progress. Eventually the committee visualizes the publication of school-oriented historical materials, but this is impractical at the moment in view of the committee's non-existent budget.

Organization of the committee itself is the major accomplishment, since its membership is composed of outstanding educators, historians and others interested in the dissemination of historical matters.

One project with potentially far-reaching effect was successfully completed. This was a statewide essay contest on local history, coupled with a unique three-day tour of New Jersey by 37 high school boys under Society sponsorship.

Dr. Samuel Berg inspired the essay contest and supported it with a generous gift. He proposed the mechanics of the contest and established as prizes savings bonds, memberships in the Society and books on New Jersey for the top 37 boys and girls.

One hundred eighty-seven essays were received from 16 counties. Howard Wiseman, whose assistance in this program has been painstaking and complete, conducted all correspondence and kept the contest alive. Then, at an opportune time, Mrs. S. Whitney Landon volunteered to make a preliminary judging. She reduced the 187 essays to 40 and these, in turn, were arranged in order of merit by other committee members.

As the contest progressed, Clayton Cronkright of the Public Service Corporation suggested that the winners be taken on a three-day all-expenses-paid tour of New Jersey. He helped get Public Service to donate an air-conditioned bus and driver, and aided in securing other sponsors, including the Chalfonte-Haddon Hall in Atlantic City and several busi-

ness and industrial sponsors. The Berg Fund made up the small deficit.

Our trip in early May went on the first day from the Society to Port Newark and Newark Airport, to Rutgers University, to the Historical Museum at Freehold and on to Atlantic City. The second day we toured part of the Jersey Shore, Batsto, the Camden *Courier-Post* and Washington Crossing Park before staying overnight in Trenton. On the third day, the 37 boys and girls attended a hearing on the college bond referendum in the State legislative chambers, had lunch at Walker-Gordon Farm, toured two modern industries in the Princeton area and finished the trip by visiting Morven and the Princeton University campus before returning to the Society.

Since May these youngsters have held two reunions, and the feeling is strong among these boys and girls to inaugurate a sound junior historian program in New Jersey. Their enthusiasm outruns our resources. However, among other things, they plan to help the Society sponsor a junior historical conference next spring, probably to be held concurrently with the Society's annual adult historical conference. This will be a major undertaking, of course.

For the coming year the education committee plans to continue the essay contest and the bus tour in addition to the junior historical conference. There is hope, too, that at least a start will be made on the preparation of lively, illustrated materials for use in the schools.

The committee wishes to single out for its thanks several persons—particularly Dr. Berg, Mr. Wiseman, Mrs. Landon, Mr. Cronkright and the Misses Hubley and Porter (the latter two being generous and pleasant chaperones on the tour). It must also express its appreciation to Mr. Lunny for his high interest in the work of the committee and for his willingness to implement that work whenever called upon.

JOHN T. CUNNINGHAM, *Chairman*

REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

YOUR corresponding secretary of the past few years received this year only a few letters addressed to her as such. Most of them are addressed to the librarian or director and are replied to by them.

One inquiry might interest you if you have not heard of the subject. It concerned Dr. Cornelius W. Larison and his pamphlets and books, some of them printed in his system of phonetic spelling. Did we have any of these in our library?

According to a recent biography of Larison by Henry R. Weiss, reviewed by George C. Rockefeller in the *Proceedings* (January, 1954), he was a most interesting person. He lived in Ringoes, Hunterdon County, was a physician, farmer, educator, author, editor, publisher and exponent of phonetic spelling. He formed his own publishing house, known as the

Fonic Publishing House, and published his works in his own special alphabet. He gave a number of these to our Society and later we had others presented to us. A few of these are on exhibition in our library, where you might be interested in seeing them. Two titles are listed here:

Geografy. A Text Buk in Fonic Orthografy. By C. W. Larison, M.D. Ringos, N. J. Publisht by the Fonic Publishin Hous. 1885.

Silvia Dubois (now 116 yers old). A Biografy of the Slav who Whipt Her Mistres and Gand Her Fredom. By C. W. Larison, M.D. Ringos, N. J. C. W. Larison, Publisher. 1883.

Another question concerned the naming of Trenton as our national capital. As many of you know, Congress had been sitting in Philadelphia during the Revolution, but in June, 1783, after the mutiny of the Pennsylvania Line and its march on Congress, the latter decided to meet elsewhere and both Trenton and Princeton offered accommodations. Princeton was chosen. Here it met for four months, and during that time it decided, among other things, to consider a permanent place for its meetings. The New Jersey Legislature then offered Congress jurisdiction over any district within the State to the extent of twenty square miles, and to grant £30,000 in specie for the purchase of the land and the erection of buildings. In October of that year Congress took up the question of which state should provide the land and buildings, and a motion was passed that such buildings should be on the "banks of the Delaware near Trenton, or on the banks of the Potomac near Georgetown." Later Trenton was chosen.

A committee of five was appointed to view the situation and report to Congress. This was done in December, 1783, and a map or plan of the district was made. The original manuscript of this plan is now in the Library of Congress and is entitled "The proposed National Capital site in Trenton."

For a time this selection seemed to be an accomplished fact, but a minority against it were influential. A compromise was finally effected, and a resolution adopted, that two residences should be provided for Congress, one near the Falls at Trenton and the other at or near Georgetown on the Potomac. There still was opposition, but Congress met in Trenton in October, 1784, when a resolution was passed that it should meet alternately at Trenton and Annapolis.

Three commissioners were appointed to lay out a district on the banks of the Delaware not lower than Lamberton nor more than six miles above it. The commissioners were Philip Schuyler of New York, Philemon Dickinson of Trenton and Robert Morris of Philadelphia. Buildings were to be erected, one a capitol building; also houses for the President of Congress and the principal officers of the government; and lots to be selected for houses for the state delegates. Congress was to adjourn and meet in New York until the buildings were ready. So sure were the

people of Trenton that their city would be a Federal capital that Dr. David Cowell, a resident of Trenton who died December 18, 1783, bequeathed to Congress one hundred pounds "if they settle themselves at Trenton." This probably was the first legacy willed to the United States.

There still was, however, a Southern minority against the Delaware location. Transportation was an important issue, even George Washington favoring a Southern site; so again nothing came of the Trenton project. In 1789 the question of a permanent capital again arose, and in 1790 it was settled in a typically political manner. Alexander Hamilton was desirous of having a bill passed by which the Federal government would assume the Revolutionary War debts of the states. As all states would be taxed for this, Virginia objected, for she had paid all of her war debts. A trade was made, and Virginia agreed to vote for the bill, provided a site on the Potomac was chosen for the Federal capital. In 1791 Washington selected the site which now bears his name. Congress voted for that site and agreed to meet in Philadelphia while the capitol was being built. Thus ended the project for making Trenton the capital of the United States. Trenton did not give up easily, however, and in December, 1801, the New Jersey Legislature resolved that if the United States Congress should decide to leave Washington, the New Jersey senators in Congress should offer the State House and other public buildings of the State for the use of Congress. This did not happen, of course.

Interest has been shown in inflation, prices, rationing, etc. during the Revolutionary War in New Jersey. In this day of threatened inflation and high prices it is interesting to note that our forefathers had to cope with the same problems.

As you all know, during that period each state issued its own money, paper money; very little hard cash was used. Also there were no standard values of state monies; they varied in each state. Eight shillings of New York paper money was equal to six shillings in Massachusetts. New Jersey had a different ratio, and when it was occupied by troops from other states, the money from those states circulated here. Also the Continental Congress issued continental money, and when that appeared, state money depreciated in value. Last but not least, the British counterfeited the continental money, and you can imagine the financial confusion. In fact there was so much money in circulation that Congress retired a large amount, as it agreed that too much money was as bad as not enough!

The regulation of prices became a necessity too. New Jersey being an agricultural state, and there being a great demand for agricultural products, prices rose, as everyone wished to receive the highest price possible for his products. It seems the quartermasters of the army were paid a commission on the money they spent, and consequently they were willing to pay high prices. They were referred to as "the harpies," and the *New Jersey Gazette* (May 26, 1779) remarked, "it has been often said that

the quartermaster's department is very lucrative, that they will return to citizenship with fortunes of nabobs or sultans, these buyers should be paid handsome salaries but no commissions."

The British were willing to pay high prices, and as lukewarm citizens were willing to sell to them, a sort of black market came into being. Leaders of the state realized that something should be done to check this and thought to stabilize the currency by price regulation and taxes. The latter, however, were not very popular. Taxes on property were one thing, but taxing the interest one received from mortgages and bonds—in other words, income tax—was not to be tolerated.

In December, 1777, New Jersey passed an act "for the regulating and limiting of the price of sundry articles of produce, manufacture and trade . . ." It commences with words familiar to us today: "Whereas divers persons by motives unfriendly to the interest and well-being of their country, or by avarice or the love of unjust gain do require and demand unreasonable prices . . ." It then proceeds to state that, by reason of this, many people are unable to obtain the necessities of life. The act then sets prices for all stable goods, meat, potatoes, rye, oats, buckwheat, wool, cider, butter, spirits, etc., and "men's neat leather shoes, 17 shillings." Then an interesting item: "the rates and prices of farming labor, mechanicks, tradesmen, handcraftmen, shall not exceed double what they were in the year 1775." In other words labor was allowed a 100% increase! Then comes a hint of rationing: the act states that if any one has more than enough for himself, he must sell the surplus to those who need it or to the army. Hoarding was not allowed. If any one refused to sell, then on complaint of the one who wished to buy the justice of the peace could call a constable to take the amount wanted and sell it to the needy one.

In 1778, Congress suggested that states that were near together meet and set uniform prices. This was done, and New Jersey passed a new act setting prices; but the other states failed to co-operate and, there being much violation of the act, it was suspended. Another act was passed in December, 1779, but in 1780 this also was suspended. Although the attempt to create ceiling prices and make the people hold to them was a failure, it is interesting to note that even the regulations of prices and wages was considered necessary in New Jersey under war conditions.

All genealogical inquiries have been replied to by the library staff.

MAUD H. GREENE, *Corresponding Secretary.*

(Lists of new members and donors to the Library and Museum for the past year will appear in a subsequent issue.)

The Collections

OF

THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

I. East Jersey under the Proprietary Governments: A Narrative of Events Connected with the Settlement and Progress of the Providence, until the Surrender of the Government to the Crown in 1703. *By William A. Whitehead,* 1846. *Second Edition,* 1875.

II. The Life of William Alexander, Earl of Stirling; Major General in the Army of the United States, during the Revolution: With Selections from his Correspondence by his grandson, William Alexander Duer, LL.D. 1847. *(Out of Print.)*

III. The Provincial Courts of New Jersey, with Sketches of the Bench and Bar. *By Richard S. Field,* 1849. *(Out of Print.)*

IV. The Papers of Lewis Morris, Governor of the Province of New Jersey, from 1738 to 1746. 1852.

V. An Analytical Index to the Colonial Documents of New Jersey in the State Paper Offices of England. *Compiled by Henry Stevens. Edited by William A. Whitehead,* 1858.

VI. Records of the Town of Newark, New Jersey, from its Settlement in 1666, to its Incorporation as a City in 1836. 1864.
Supplement: Proceedings Commemorative of the Settlement of Newark, New Jersey, on its Two Hundredth Anniversary, May 17th, 1866.

VII. The Constitution and Government of the Province and State of New Jersey, with Biographical Sketches of the Governors from 1776 to 1845, and Reminiscences of the Bench and Bar, during more than Half a Century. *By Lucius Q. C. Elmer,* LL.D. 1872.

VIII. Semi-Centennial Celebration of the Founding of the New Jersey Historical Society, at Newark, N. J., May 16, 1895.

IX. New Jersey Biographical and Genealogical Notes from the Volumes of the New Jersey Archives with Additions and Supplements. *By the late William Nelson.* 1916.

X. The Loyalists of New Jersey: Their Memorials, Petitions, Claims, etc. from English Records. *By E. Alfred Jones,* M.A., F.R.HIST. SOC. 1927.

XI. A Guide to the Manuscript Collection of The New Jersey Historical Society. *By Fred Shelley, Librarian.* 1957.

XII. Juet's Journal. The Voyage of the *Half Moon* from 4 April to 7 November 1609. *By Robert Juet. Introduction by John T. Cunningham. Edited by Robert M. Lunny.* 1959.

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"Point Breeze"—First House. Estate of Joseph Bonaparte at Bordentown, New Jersey. *(Photo-copy from the original oil painting in the collection of the New Jersey Historical Society)*